



## Carter criticises U.N. in Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter urged the United Nations Friday to get its humanitarian operations back on track in Somalia, where its military forces have become embroiled in a guerrilla war.

"I hope that the U.N. will continue its efforts to provide humanitarian relief instead of trying to rely on military efforts and the capture of General Mohammad Farah Aideed of which I do not approve," Mr. Carter told reporters in Nairobi.

Mr. Carter said he did not want to usurp the role of the U.N. His criticism followed an outcry by human rights group and disgruntled U.N. staff against what they see as an operation that has lost sight of its mission to help a nation destroyed by famine and anarchia.

The U.N. is offering a reward for the arrest of warlord Aideed for his alleged role in the massacre of 24 Pakistani U.N. troops in early June.

The U.N. has killed at least 120 Somalis and lost several more of its own troops since the killings of the Pakistanis. Four journalists were also murdered by angry Somalis after a U.N. helicopter attack in Mogadishu on July 12.

Some critics of the U.N. operation, which they say is no longer a neutral force in the conflict, have suggested that an independent body such as a human rights group investigate and mediate in the dispute between Gen. Aideed and the U.N.

Mr. Carter, who has mediated in the Sudan and former Ethiopian civil wars, did not specifically offer his services for Somalia but said he could play a role in solving the region's conflicts.

"We have always maintained an interest in conflict resolution in Africa, and if the Carter Cen-



An American soldier carries some of the weapons seized by Malaysian U.N. soldiers (background) in the quarters of the humanitarian Irish aid organization in Mogadishu Thursday. The troops found the cache conducting a sweep in south Mogadishu (AFP photo)

tre could play a role in conflict resolution here then we would be happy to do so," he said.

Mr. Carter met Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, who has also mediated between warring parties in the region, to discuss Somalia and the war in neighbouring Sudan earlier this week before going on Safari with his wife.

"I met with him to hear his opinion of what could be done in Somalia and because of his relationship with Sudan, I wanted to discuss what could be done there to work for peace," Mr. Carter said.

This was Mr. Carter also met rebel Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army leader John Garang

and Riak Machar, who leads a rebel splinter group fighting both the Khartoum government and Colonel Garang.

Mr. Carter flew to Uganda's capital Kampala to promote his programme to eradicate guinea worm, a parasite that affects many African countries. On Saturday he will fly to Khartoum for talks with Sudanese junta leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

"It's my intention to promote a cessation of the conflict currently going on in southern Sudan and to promote humanitarian relief activities — to that end I will be taking messages to Khartoum from the John Garang group," Mr. Carter said.

Human rights organisations have criticised Mr. Mubarak's decision to refer radicals to military court, which allow no appeal except for presidential clemency.

More than 190 people have been killed in the radicals' campaign of violence or in confrontations between the extremists and authorities.

The militants' main targets have been Christians, police and government officials. Last year they started attacking foreign tourists. More recently, authorities blamed them for a series of nail-packed bombs in public places that killed and wounded many ordinary people.

The 248 militants were arrested in May in a sweep in the greater Cairo area, Qalyubiya province and Alexandria.

The military prosecution has divided them into five groups to be tried in separate military courts.

### Pharmacist killed

Suspected extremists shot and killed a Coptic Christian pharmacist in southern Egypt.

Philip Al Kumanus, 36, died instantly from a gunshot to the head Thursday in the village of Dairut Al Sherif near the town of Dairut, police said.

Police are still investigating the motive of the killing. They have set up checkpoints in the village looking for the assailants.

Militants have killed Christian pharmacists for selling contraceptives, which are considered offensive to some Muslims. Other victims have been accused of collaborating with authorities or killed out of sectarian hatred.

Christian Copts account for 6 million of Egypt's 58 million population, which is largely Muslim. In May 1992, militants killed 13 Christians in a dispute over property ownership.

The Israeli high court accepted the survivors' petition and combined it with two appeals filed last week. The appeal has delayed Demjanjuk's deportation from Israel, which had been scheduled for last Sunday, to give the attorney general time to consider a new trial.

"I have an obligation to the people who were destroyed. I remember before they went to the gas chamber, they shouted, 'Lord of Israel, tell the world what they are doing here and take revenge,'" said Dow Fraiberg.

## U.S. government asks court to close Demjanjuk case

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. Justice Department Thursday urged a federal appeals court to close the case against accused Nazi guard John Demjanjuk and abide by the ruling that stripped him of his U.S. citizenship.

In a brief filed with the appeals court in Cincinnati, the department said the court should leave undisturbed previous rulings in which the 73-year-old retired Cleveland car worker was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1981 and ordered deported in 1986.

While Justice Department lawyers acknowledged that doubt has been cast on whether Demjanjuk was a guard at the Treblinka camp, they said sufficient evidence exists that he served at a Nazi training centre and another concentration camp in Poland.

The Cincinnati tribunal — officially called as the Sixth U.S. Circuit of Court of Appeals — has jurisdiction over federal appeal cases in Ohio, including Cleveland where Demjanjuk lived.

The same U.S. appeals court ruled on Tuesday that Demjanjuk must be permitted to return to the United States from Israel, where he has been held since 1986, while it considers the case.

The Israeli supreme court, last week cleared Demjanjuk of being a guard who operated the gas chamber at Treblinka.

The Justice Department has not yet decided whether to appeal Tuesday's decision by the U.S. appeals court. If the government appeals as expected, the Justice Department would have to file a separate motion arguing Demjanjuk should not be allowed to



John Demjanjuk

re-enter the country.

The brief filed on Thursday, responding to a ruling in June by a judge, also urged the court to accept the finding that U.S. prosecutors did not deliberately conceal evidence that would have cleared Demjanjuk.

"As the special master (Judge) recommended, it is now time to close the case," department lawyer Patty Merkamp Sternler said in the 62-page brief. "In sum, Demjanjuk has had an opportunity to raise every conceivable objection to the judgments against him. Each argument has been rejected."

Despite last week's ruling by Israel's highest court, Demjanjuk remains in Israel, barred from going to the United States or his native Ukraine.

An Israeli supreme court panel has set a hearing for Aug. 11 on whether he might stand trial again in that country based on evidence he was a guard at Nazi camps other than Treblinka.

Born Ivan Demjanjuk, he has insisted that he never was a guard at any Nazi camp and has been a victim of mistaken identity.

The appeals court in Cincinnati has set its next hearing in the case for Sept. 3.

Eight Nazi camp survivors asked the Israeli supreme court Tuesday to try Demjanjuk on new charges and claimed his freedom would signal forgiveness to Nazi war criminals everywhere.

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### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO  
18:00 .... Les Aventures de l'Espace  
18:30 .... Envoy Special  
19:15 .... Penetree sur  
19:30 .... News in Hebrew  
20:00 .... News in Arabic  
20:30 .... Wacky World  
21:00 .... Perspectives  
22:00 .... News in English  
22:30 .... Feature Film: "Carolina Skeletons"

### PRAYER TIMES

04:23 ..... Fajr  
05:59 ..... (Sunsic) Dhuhr  
12:41 ..... Asr  
16:22 ..... Magrib  
21:00 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifieh, Tel. 87040  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771311  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephrem Church Tel. 771751  
Ammar International Church Tel. 625226  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 843428  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932  
Church of Nazarene Tel. 673691

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea-scalm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 20 / 32  
Aqaba ..... 25 / 40  
Deserts ..... 20 / 37  
Jordan Valley ..... 23 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

ZARQA: Dr. Abdul Karim Khashashneh ..... 985445  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mahmud Hindi ..... 599787  
Dr. Fayed Al Dabbas ..... 759155  
Dr. Ismail Elsara ..... 748351  
Dr. Nidal Al Dabbas ..... 827195  
Firsts pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asmaa pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nahroutk pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Samal pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shuncisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Sharairi ..... 248056  
AJ Quds Pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Abdul Karim Khashashneh ..... 985445  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 69032  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Print Compters ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 877111  
Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 897467

Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101  
Al-Jahez Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 689100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Human Medical Centre ..... 813013/02  
Medical Materials ..... Ann. 6442010  
Akileh Maternity ..... Ann. 6424412  
Jabali Amman Maternity ..... 642463  
Malha, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 6641714  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Musheer Hospital ..... 6772279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 665127/37  
Al-Abi, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajrein ..... 7771013  
Al-Basit, J. Ashrafiyah ..... 77511025  
Army, Mafraq ..... 89161110  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60224050  
Al-Iman Hospital ..... 674155

ZARQA: Jordan Govt. Hospital ..... 09963322  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... 09920560  
Im-Sina Hospital ..... 099586732  
Al-Hilwa Modern Hospital ..... 09959999

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 ..... Cairo, Agiba (RJ)  
06:55 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
11:50 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)  
14:40 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
18:25 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
18:30 ..... New York, American (RJ)  
19:25 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
19:30 ..... London, Berlin (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)  
11:30 ..... Sanaa (YEM)  
19:25 ..... Rome (AFR)  
20:35 ..... Cairo (MGI)  
21:45 ..... Dubai, Damacus (EM)  
21:45 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
21:45 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:00 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Paris, Brussels (RJ)  
12:50 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
13:55 ..... London (RJ)  
20:25 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)  
22:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
22:45 ..... Dhaka (RJ)  
18:15 ..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
18:30 ..... Laraca (CY)

MARKET PRICES  
Upper flower price 500 per kg.  
Apple ..... 300/350  
Apricots ..... 440/450  
Banana ..... 60/65  
Banana (Makassar) ..... 620 / 650  
Beans ..... 520 / 550  
Carrot ..... 100 / 120  
Cauliflower ..... 180 / 200  
Cherry (red) ..... 750/800  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 100 / 120  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 170 / 190  
Eggplant ..... 170 / 190  
Garlic ..... 700 / 750  
Grapes ..... 300/350  
Lemon ..... 500 / 550  
Marrow (large) ..... 150 / 180  
Marrow (small) ..... 250 / 280  
Mint ..... 100 / 120  
Okra ..... 100 / 120  
Onion (dry) ..... 100 / 120  
Peaches ..... 500/550  
Pepper (hot) ..... 300 / 350  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 300 / 350  
Potato ..... 230 / 250  
Tomato ..... 130 / 150  
Sweetmelon ..... 240 / 260  
Watermelon ..... 160 / 180



TRAINING: Palestinian fighters learn to handle a Katyusha rocket in a training camp in southern Lebanon (AFP photo)

## Cairo to open largest case against militants

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian military court will start the trial Monday of the first group of defendants in the government's biggest case against extremists, involving 756 people.

The defendants are charged with belonging to an illegal group called "the Vanguards of Islam," a revival of the Jihad organisation that assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981, a military source said Friday.

The trial of the first 53 defendants will be held at Cairo's Red Mountain military barracks where the 22 militants who were convicted of Sadat's assassination were tried. Five of them were executed.

All those going on trial are accused in the militant 19-month campaign to overturn President Hosni Mubarak's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule.

The case of the 756 is divided into two sets of charges, said the military source, who spoke on the AP condition of anonymity. The first involves 234 people who are accused of committing crimes in the Cairo area.

The remaining 522 are charged with belonging to Vanguards of Islam provincial branches and plotting to carry out car bombs and assassinations.

The 53 going on trial Monday face charges in Cairo. They are accused of killing a truck driver and stealing his van; slaying two police and an embassy guard to steal weapons, illegal possession of arms and falsifying documents.

Mr. Mubarak started referring extremist cases to military courts earlier this year to ensure quicker verdicts. In civilian courts, cases often drag on for years.

The military courts have sent

## Jordan to mark King's accession to throne



AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will mark a public holiday next Wednesday in observance of the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne. On the occasion, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Friday issued a communique ordering the closure of all ministries, government departments and institutions. In a related development, the Great Arab Revolt Club Friday announced that it was hosting a series of events to mark the occasion. Sources at the club said it will be hosting officials who served during the early years of the King's reign to talk about development witnessed in Jordan under his leadership. The club will also organise special programmes aimed at serving the local community. These programmes include offering medical services free of charge for residents of remote areas in the Kingdom. President of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research Nasseruddin Al Assad will Saturday deliver a lecture on higher education in Jordan at the club as part of these programmes.



HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan Friday is seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath left for Belgium to attend the funeral of King Baudouin of Belgium who died last Saturday. Prince Hassan, who is accompanied by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Salam Al Hassan, will convey to the Belgian royal family and people the condolences of His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government and people. Their Royal Highnesses were also seen off by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, the King's private chamberlain, Her Royal Highness Princess Sumayya Bint Al Hassan and other senior officials. The 62-year-old King Baudouin, Europe's longest reigning monarch, died of a heart attack last Saturday while on holiday in Spain. His reign started in 1951. (Petra photo).

## Former House speaker thanks King

AMMAN (Petra) — Former Speaker of the 11th Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabyat Thursday sent a letter of reply to His Majesty King Hussein, thanking him in his name and on behalf of the members of the House on His Majesty's confidence in them.

"With appreciation and respect I received Your Majesty's kind letter in which Your Majesty has expressed your appreciation of the role of the 11th Lower House in the fields of legislation and monitoring (the government's performance), and of my role (as House speaker) over a period of three years."

Dr. Arabyat expressed his belief that Jordan has achieved great strides because of the King's wise leadership, the Jordanian people's awareness and the efficiency of the country's institutions.

He stressed that all Jordanians will work together under King Hussein's leadership to prevent "the enemies of freedom, shura and democracy" from undermining Jordan's march.

His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday issued a Royal Decree dissolving the Lower House of Parliament and sent a letter to Dr. Arabyat expressing his deep appreciation to him and his colleagues for their efforts during



Abdul Latif Arabyat  
the elected legislative body's speaker.

Also Wednesday, the government had set Nov. 8 as the date for electing Jordan's 12th Lower House.

## Two separate suicides reported

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two people, one of Egyptian nationality, committed suicide in Amman Thursday, according to local press reports.

A 19-year-old Egyptian man identified by the police as A.M. was reported by Sawt Al Shaab daily Friday to have swallowed a large amount of insecticides.

The Egyptian, who had been working at a hotel in Amman for

one month, had left a letter with another Egyptian worker in the same hotel asking him to send it to his family in Egypt, according to the report, quoting the testimony of his fellow worker identified as Ramadan. The letter was reported to be a suicide note.

Ramadan, along with another worker and the son of the hotel owner, found the dying man in his room.

### HOMES NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Injured tourist well, leaves Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Italian tourist who was injured when she fell off a horse in Petra left Amman Friday. She commended the medical treatment offered to her and thanked the Jordanian government and said she will be back to Jordan to complete her tour when she fully recuperates. She was visited by Health Minister Abdul-Rahim Malhas Thursday.

#### Fuheis Festival opens

FUHEIS (Petra) — A cultural festival involving a variety of performances by local and Arab troupes is underway in Fuheis. The festival, formally opened Thursday by Tourism Minister Yamal Hikmat, has been organised by Fuheis Youth Club as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's coronation anniversary this month.

## Competition narrows to between 4 international firms for contract to study RJ privatisation strategy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A government-appointed technical committee has opened negotiations with four international consultancy companies on awarding a contract to study the best strategy and mechanism to privatise Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier.

"The field has been narrowed to four from the eight companies which had submitted offers," said an informed source. "The technical committee is negotiating the contract with the four and a decision could be expected in the next 10 days," the source told the Jordan Times.

"The objective of the proposed study is to come up with the best strategy and mechanism to privatise RJ," said the source, who preferred anonymity.

According to the source, the contract value is in the range of \$250,000 to \$500,000. The source refused to give further details.

Among the companies which had submitted offers were: Price Waterhouse, Arthur Anderson and Company, KPMG Peat Marwick, Ernst & Young, Touche Ross and Company and Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte.

The offers were submitted early this year and earlier expectations that a decision was imminent in February did not materialise.

Arthur Anderson & Company conducted a study on RJ affairs last year and recommended that



the airline's capital be raised to \$100 million from the present JD 22 million (about \$33 million).

The technical committee is part of a larger, high-level committee chartered by the minister of transport which was set up last year to

study the situation of the airline and come up with the best means to privatise it.

RJ's operational side is regis-

tering good profits, but the air-

line is burdened with over \$300

million in local and foreign debts.

taxing it up to \$40 million in year in debt servicing.

The first phase of the privatisation process, according to the recommendations by auditors Arthur Anderson & Company, will be the transfer of part ownership to Jordanian government agencies and institutions such as the Jordan Petroleum Refinery company, the Social Security Corporation and the Housing Bank. These institutions are estimated to hold about 40 per cent of the airline's shares.

The second phase will be implemented with shares offered to the private sector — both local and foreign — but the government will ensure that the controlling interest will remain with Jordanian institutions by limiting the shares on offer to foreign interests in 49 per cent, according to the sources.

Another senior source said: "It is no longer an issue whether to privatise RJ; it is a question of how best to do it."

The source categorically rejected reports that several international airlines were in touch with RJ with a view to acquiring RJ shares.

"We have yet to take the first step towards privatising RJ," noted the source. "We do not even know the shape of the company. All talks about other airlines conducting negotiations on RJ shares are unfounded."

## Majali says efforts to modernise foreign ministry will be fully supported

AMMAN (Petra) — Acting upon directives of His Majesty King Hussein, the government will extend all possible support to the Foreign Ministry in its drive to modernise and raise the standards and skills of its staff, said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Thursday.

Addressing a meeting held at the foreign ministry to review new plans for modernisation, the prime minister said he understood all the ministry's requirements in this respect and backs its efforts to recruit qualified staff and establish a Jordanian diplomats institute to train new foreign service personnel.

Dr. Majali was commenting on a general plan presented at the meeting by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan entailing modernisation and the ministry's efforts to develop international relations.

The premier outlined Jordan's



foreign policy, stressing the main issues of concern to the Kingdom, especially the Middle East peace process and the country's drive to extend support to the Palestinian people in regaining their legitimate rights.

## Government to join efforts in preventing forest fires

AMMAN (Petra) — The Interior Ministry is coordinating with other government departments, particularly the Agriculture Ministry, to protect wooded regions and stem the rising number of fires reported in different parts of the country according to Interior Minister Salameh Hamad.

Most of the fires result from negligence on the part of vacationers and there is need for an integrated plan to deal with this problem said the minister Thursday during an inspection visit to the Civil Defence Department (CDD).

In praising the efforts of the CDD forces, the minister said he would back all their efforts to acquire modern fire-fighting equipment and highly skilled staff to carry out various duties.

Mr. Hamad also voiced his support for the idea of creating a special academy to train recruits in civil defence work including fire fighting.

Because of the variety of CDD responsibility there is need for an amendment to the CDD law so that it can promote its work and offer better services to the public, suggested Mr. Hamad.

He said the CDD headquarters should develop its administrative system and acquire a computer system that would help it coordinate its work with the public and private sectors and provide speedy service.

The minister listened to a briefing presented by CDD Director Afif Al Ghoul who spoke of a plan to promote the civil defence apparatus to handle any emergency.

Lieutenant General Ghoul also said the CDD was planning to transform the CDD centre at Sahab Industrial City into an academy, adding that this would cost at least JD 16 million.

Dr. Malhas said the scheme will be open to "anybody, Jordanian or non-Jordanian, or any group, Jordanian or non-Jordanian, who would like to buy all or part of the medical service given by the health care provider ... under conditions previously agreed upon by the (scheme's) administration."

Thus, one does not need to hold Jordanian nationality to join the scheme. Jordanians abroad, foreigners in Jordan and even tourists visiting the country for a short period will be eligible for membership.

According to Dr. Malhas, the plan's ultimate goal of the national insurance plan is to embrace all groups including the unemployed, housewives and children.

But the scheme is still in its early phase of preparation and many questions, such as how the poor and jobless would fit into the plan and exactly how the plan would be funded, remain unanswered.

A full understanding concerning the vision, the terminology and the implementation of the plan has yet to be established, the minister told the Jordan Times.

Dr. Malhas feels that previous attempts at working out such a plan failed mainly because they sought to include too much from the start and were therefore found to be very costly. He said that "the problem is now being approached from the other end."

## Ministry moves closer to forming national health insurance plan

By Kathrine Rath

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After several aborted attempts to provide Jordan with a comprehensive health insurance scheme, a national insurance plan is now closer to being formulated at the Ministry of Health.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas, in a recent interview with the Jordan Times outlined the basic principles of the plan and said that the aim is to create a structure which, through membership, links the people in need of a health service with the people and institutions able to provide this service. He also said that it is important to develop a scheme which can be made easily available to the public and "which can provide people with the service in a comfortable manner."

Dr. Malhas said the scheme will be open to "anybody, Jordanian or non-Jordanian, or any group, Jordanian or non-Jordanian, who would like to buy all or part of the medical service given by the health care provider ... under conditions previously agreed upon by the (scheme's) administration."

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## Report shows 2.5% unemployment decline over 3 years

AMMAN (Petra) — The Labour Ministry estimated the rate of unemployment to have dropped to 15 per cent from an estimated 18.5 per cent three years ago.

According to the ministry's annual report on unemployment released Thursday, the decline is attributed to the economic growth in the past year, the government's continued efforts to deal with the unemployment problem and the Jordanian expatriate workers, who are now involved in the local labour market.

ket, further contributing to economic stability.

The report said last year's estimates of the number of Jordanian job seekers was 106,000 and the total workforce was estimated at 851,000 of whom 706,000 were Jordanians.

Describing much of the unemployment problem "structural unemployment," the report said that a large number of job seekers were college graduates who were not trained in fields required by the local labour market.

It attributed their local success

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### EXHIBITIONS

#### JERUSALEM FESTIVAL

★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Esbelia Art Gallery. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.

★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wajid Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan InterContinental.

★ Seminar, in Arabic, on "Arts and Creativity Issues" at 6:30 p.m. at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

★ Concert by Al Hanooni Troupe for Folk Arts and Al Windat Refugee Camp Troupe at 8:30 p.m. at the Roman Amphitheatre, downtown Amman.

## Jordan Times

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## Good administrators do not make good businessmen

THE LOCAL press recently carried news reports, corroborated by officials, that a number of Ministry of Supply employees were caught red-handed, recirculating ration coupons that the ministry issues for people to purchase subsidised food. The value of recirculated coupons is reported to have been in excess of JD250,000. The case is not expected to make headlines in the local media, certainly not in the state-run media. But this and similar past cases are symptomatic of the ills inherent in the state's insistence on being the main trader and regulator.

This government and all previous administrations have repeatedly been talking about the virtues of privatisation. As recent as the last week, the incumbent prime minister urged the Ministry of Tourism to allow more space for the private sector to run the industry of tourism. We fail to see how one ministry, in this case tourism, could liberalise when another, the Ministry of Supply imposes prices. This double role of trading and fixing prices defies any purpose of liberalising the economy. And not only that, but it encourages and condones corruption.

The government cannot talk about privatisation when it owns Royal Jordanian, the Transport Corporation, the Telecommunication Corporation, most of the shares of the mainstream press and trades in bread, sugar, meat and milk. Services cannot improve when they are run by bureaucrats whose only aim is to satisfy their bosses and not their customers. It, therefore, is self defeating and highly frustrating when highly-placed officials keep talking about privatisation while they hold with both hands on to the reins of institutions that right from the start should have been private domains.

We are neither advocating a sudden disengagement nor total surrender of services to the private sector. Both the experiments of Russia — sudden transfer of business — and Britain — near total privatisation of services — have proven to be problem-ridden. As much as the government should refrain from being a business partner in the market, it is duty-bound to ensure that no one person, group of people or corporation has monopoly on one commodity or service. This is basically the function of governments. Public servants can be good administrators, but certainly they cannot make good businessmen. They, human nature dictates, could very easily become corrupt business-bureaucrats.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the election date has been fixed, the coming three months are bound to witness a flurry of activity on the part of the political parties, said Al Dastour Arabic daily. The paper said that the Jordanian people, who lived for four years enjoying a taste of democracy and took part in the previous parliamentary election, feel quite ready for the election campaign and voting and are most willing to contribute to the democratisation of their Jordanian system. It goes without saying that the coming months will witness rivalry among the parties and political groups as well as individual candidates, but people are more interested in candidates who are capable of achieving the public aspirations or working towards serving the electorate more than those who try to utilise public sentiments through rhetorics and meaningless speeches, said the daily. Furthermore, the eyes of the world, including the enemies of Jordan, will be directed towards Jordan to watch the election campaign and the voting, which we are certain would be free and fair. Indeed, Jordan looks more like an island of democracy located in the midst of a big desert having very few traces of democracy here and there, added the paper. It expressed hope that the election campaign would contribute most positively and meaningfully towards further enhancing the democratic march in the Kingdom.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily called for the privatisation of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier. A foreign auditing company has just completed the task of calculating the profits and losses and assessing the assets and liabilities of RJ and found that its management has achieved a large margin of profits in the past year, said Tareq Masrweh. There is need for a political decision to transform this national company into a private-owned firm so that its operations can be further promoted and these profits increase, said the writer. RJ is indeed part of the national economy as it is an economic institution seeking profits from its operations, therefore, such a successful company should be encouraged to make more profits through allowing the public to buy and sell its shares and participate in its performance, said the writer. He suggested that the government raise the RJ capital and offer shares to the private and public sectors after first helping this national institution settle its outstanding debts.

## Jordanian Perspective

### Who cashes the cheques in 'operation accountability'?

THE LUKEWARM Arab response to last month's Israeli assault on Lebanon has only underlined the dangerous trend in the Arab psyche that has emerged in the post-Gulf crisis era. To say the least, even editorials in the German and British press were much harsher than what we saw in the Arab media.

There are many factors that have to be kept in view while assessing the impact of the Israeli assault on Lebanon and compare it with the Jewish state's invasion of its northern neighbour in 1982.

A segment of the Lebanese population welcomed the Israelis during the 1982 operation dubbed "Galilee safety" more than Bashir Gemayel's Falangists camp.

Syria, whose armed forces engaged the Israelis in battle before falling back to their positions in 1982, acted in a visibly more suspicious way this time when its Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa declared on July 19 that any attack against Lebanon will be considered an attack against Syria, in line with the Taif agreement to which Saudi Arabia's King Fahd was a guarantor.

But Syria failed to live up to its pledge against repeated Israeli strikes after July 19, leaving one wondering whether we heard Mr. Sharaa right.

In 1982, Syria genuinely observed what the Israeli expert on Lebanon, Uri Lubrani termed as "red lines" in Lebanon. This Syrian approach allowed the massacre of hundreds, if not thousands, of Palestinians in Beirut refugee camps. The heavy Syrian guns which were present in Lebanon turned the other way rather than offering any protection to the Palestinians.

This time again, the Syrians proved that their military umbrella could not offer any protection to the pro-Syrian Jibril group or the pro-Iranian Hezbollah let alone the half a million or so civilians who were forced to flee their homes in South Lebanon to escape the fierce Israeli assault.

A closer look at the political givens in Lebanon exposes a much sinister shape of things. As the dust settled in South Lebanon and the Israeli guns stopped barking, it became clear that Syria was among those who cashed the political benefits of Israel's "operation accountability" since the pointed Syrian abstention from trying to stop the Israelis from destroying Hezbollah infrastructure in Lebanon enhanced the stature of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad as a self-restraining, far-sighted peace-maker, keen to maintain a strategic relationship with his new-found friends in Washington.

Next thing we could even be an Assad visit to the U.S., given the praise that President Bill Clinton and his Secretary of State Warren Christopher heaped on the Syrian leader for his

inaction in Lebanon during the Israeli assault.

It also seems that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had either sensed or at least been tipped off since June, of the major requirements of salvaging the 21-month-old Middle East peace process through eliminating the last two key obstacles: Hamas and Hezbollah.

By design or coincidence, many Arafat fighters had received "transfer" orders from Lebanon as early as June 6. We might never know whether this move was warranted by the austerity measures that Mr. Arafat has adopted in the face of dwindling Palestinian funds or was a very convenient action to get the fighters out of the way in the face of an imminent Israeli assault.

Did Iran benefit politically from the severe blow that was dealt to Hezbollah?

It is clear that not many in Tehran would shed much tears over the clipped wings of Hezbollah in Lebanon. A major part of the Hezbollah ranks is no supporter of Iranian President Hashemi-Akbar Rafsanjani. They receive their orders from the hardline anti-Rafsanjani camp in Tehran headed by Mohashemi, a former Iranian ambassador to Syria who moulded Hezbollah in Lebanon in the late 1980s, and former Iranian parliament speaker Karoubi, who injected dogmatic extremism into the group.

No doubt, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who was present in the Syrian capital when the Arab foreign ministers met to discuss the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon, took back a very relieving message to Tehran that not only a potentially explosive situation had been defused but also that the anti-Rafsanjani camp in Iran was slowly being deprived of a card that could be used to embarrass the regime and set back its efforts to improve relations with the West.

Notwithstanding the loud protestations and complaints, the Lebanese government felt relieved, just as its Syrian and Iranian counterparts did, that someone else did the job for it. For one thing, the Israeli assault cleared the way for the Lebanese army to be deployed in the south — something Beirut could not have hoped for as long as the Hezbollah's firepower and popularity remained intact in the south. Any such move by the government of President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri could have easily led to another civil war, pitting the army against Hezbollah.

It was also a masterpiece that the Beirut government achieved by coaxing the half a million southerners to return to their shattered homes and villages, thus denying Hezbollah any opportunity to use their presence in and around Beirut as a

political card.

The pro-Syria Amal militia, which was engaged in a running

battle with Hezbollah for supremacy among Lebanese Shiites, should be now jubilant that the teeth of its archrival have been pulled leaving the Lebanese scene open for Amal dominance, which in turn benefits not only Damascus but also the Saudis, its bankroller.

Egypt was not about to be left on the wings as the scenario unfolded in Lebanon. Its foreign minister, Amr Musa, flew to Beirut a few days before the Israeli assault began in what could be nothing but an effort to snatch the Lebanese card away from the Syrians. But the efforts collapsed with the Israeli bombardment.

Many analysts see Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as a skillful manipulator of his country's public opinion. He needs domestically the image of being tough before agreeing to any deal with the Palestinians or Syrians. Otherwise, he will lose his pro-peace Labour constituency to Shimon Peres if not to Likud's Netanyahu. Prior to any political deal for what could be called a concession, Mr. Rabin does his tough guy mantle as he did in December 1992 when over 400 Hamas and Jihadists were deported to Marj Al Zohour just before serious commitments were made to Faisal Husseini.

It is the same tactic used by Mr. Rabin when he announced the total closure of the West Bank and Gaza. Mr. Rabin's candid feel for the fluctuations in Israel's public opinion dictated his announcement that "military operations cannot eradicate terrorism in Lebanon. A leeway price has already been paid for those delusions."

So, we can conclude that Mr. Rabin wanted to remove a political obstacle to the peace process that neither the Lebanese nor the Syrians could remove. Mr. Rabin's statements foreshadowed Mr. Christopher's happy announcement of a major "surprise" between Syria and Israel.

But the fact remains that the Arab trauma resulting from the second Gulf war had transformed the Arab psyche in such a way to make the peoples pliable enough to accept all the new arrangements that will take place in this region.

It could be part of a divine irony that the same anniversary of Nasser's revolution witnesses the nadir of Arab humiliation, apathy and fraternal double-crossing. The U.S. reaction to what happened in Lebanon shows that different criteria are always applied when the casualties are Bosnian Muslims or Lebanese civilians. Even at the United Nations, it transpired that its Charter is interpreted differently when the victim is a non-white, non-Anglo-Saxon, and non-Protestant.

## Arms control and security in the Mideast

On July 29, 1993, Robert J. Einhorn, deputy assistant secretary of state for nonproliferation, addressed the Washington Institute's Policy Forum on U.S. arms control policy in the Middle East. The following is a summary of his remarks:

Middle East arms control will be an important component of the U.S. foreign policy in the 1990s. Despite the ongoing peace process, the Middle East remains one of the most overarmed regions in the world. Arms expenditures occupy a greater portion of the regional states' budgets than any, where else in the world. Many Middle East countries possess larger stocks of hardware than most members of NATO. Finally, over half the countries in the region either have or are trying to develop nuclear weapons.

The demand side of U.S. strategy seeks to curtail the perceived need by Middle East countries for the acquisition of weapons. One way to do so is through formal arms control accords like the Chemical Weapons Convention of January 1993. Another method, focusing on enhancing regional communication, is the Arms Control Working Group of the multilateral track of the Arab-Israeli peace process. Involving thirteen regional parties, including the Palestinians, and several extra-regional countries, the arms group has held three formal meetings.

The Arabs and Israel have brought two different perspectives to the meetings. The Arabs, led by Egypt, want to address weapons of mass destruction first. Israel, in contrast, believes equal time must be spent discussing the control of conventional weapons in the region.

Despite these differences, three points of consensus have emerged within the group. One is that arms control does not operate in a vacuum, and should be pursued within the framework of the peace process. Two, that arms control should be pursued on a step-by-step basis. And three, that the arms control process must be comprehensive and take account of the needs and concerns of all the region's actors.

All parties agree that there is an urgency to address arms control issues. Meetings of the group have served a very useful educational purpose. But now we need to push for concrete results.

To help achieve that goal, the group has agreed to hold a series of seminars in different countries in between formal sessions. Most recently, a seminar on verification was held in Cairo in July. The U.S. believes that the most fruitful area for real progress in the talks would be an agreement to begin implementing a series of confidence-building measures.

With Iraq, the U.S. has actively supported all U.N. efforts to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. The long-term goal is to prevent the expansion of Iraq's military capabilities to ensure that it never poses a threat to the region. While Saddam Hussein has recently demonstrated a greater willingness to cooperate with the U.N. efforts to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, the Arabs are bound to resist this occupation, said the writer. He said that the carot and stick policy would never achieve a lasting peace in the region.

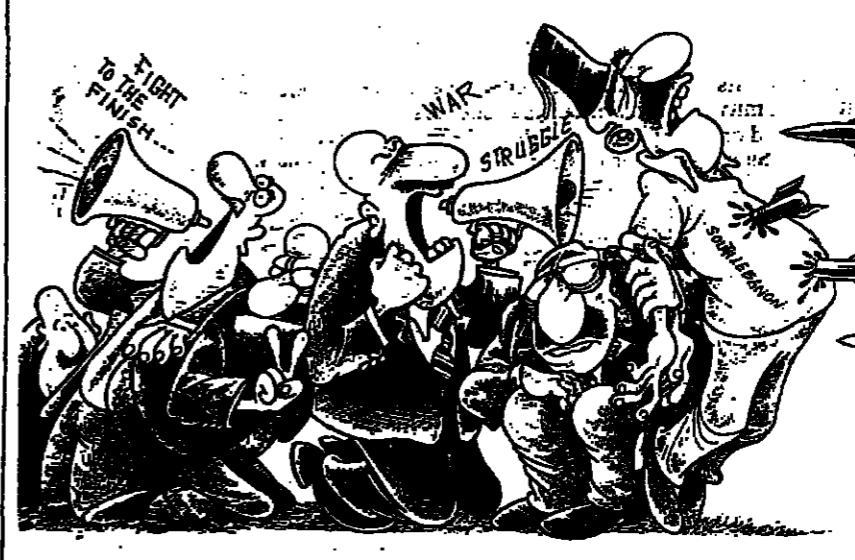
The Clinton administration knows that arms control in the Middle East is not going to be an easy process. And it understands that both the supply and demand sides must be urgently addressed. Ultimately, however, while tackling the supply sector "can buy us time," real stability will depend on reducing the excessive demand for arms in the region.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

### U.S. seems happy with peace talks inertia

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

M. KAHIL



forget about their sufferings and their wounds and move forward to the negotiating table with Israel.

Mr. Christopher has made it clear to the Arab parties that Israel's latest aggression on Lebanon and the prospects of the Middle East peace acquired most attention in the local press in the past week. Domestic affairs were also extensively discussed.

Commenting on Warren Christopher's mission, Sawi Al Shaa' daily said that the American secretary has now listened to the views of the Arab parties in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine and therefore ought to take one step forward to translate the American pledges into action.

The U.S. secretary has heard Jordan's clear demand for a just and honourable peace but has divulged nothing at the press conference following his talks in Amman apart from saying that peace could come before the end of 1993.

It was noticed however that Washington was only interested in keeping the negotiations going even without yielding anything positive,

something opposed by the Arab parties' demand for immediate action towards the implementation of U.N. resolutions,

said the writer.

Projecting a pessimistic view about the U.S. secretary of state's tour, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that Washington was merely peddling Israel's ideas in the Arab World. Indeed, in the aftermath of the Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon, one can say that Mr. Christopher was making the tour in pursuit of America's well-known carrot and stick policy, said Tareq Masrweh.

The writer said that Mr. Christopher brought no new American ideas to the Arabs and was only trying to present Israel's views which refuse to include Jerusalem in the peace process or consider the implementation of U.N. resolutions on which the peace process has been based.

Ahmad Al Misleh, another Al Ra'i columnist, said that the United States could succeed in prodding the Arab parties to take part in the 12th round of peace negotiations and could also, eventually impose a settlement on the Arabs, but can not achieve a lasting peace in the region.

The writer said that Washington is now involved in imposing the U.S.-Israeli formula of peace on the Arabs merely to safeguard its economic interests and to strengthen its own leadership of the world, as a sole superpower.

He said that Mr. Christopher is finding it easy now to deal with the Arab regimes which are weak and cannot confront the Israeli military and so Mr. Christopher is bound to achieve his mission in the region.

Only eight Hezbollah members were killed in the latest Israeli offensive on southern Lebanon, said Mazen Hammoud, a columnist in Al Dastour. The columnist, who writes for Al Ra'i daily, said that the Israeli aimed at ending all opposition to their idea of peace with the Arab countries and pressuring the Lebanese government into accepting Israel's permanent occupation of the south, he added.

Hizbullah was not alone targeted by the Israeli offensive in southern Lebanon last week, said Mahmoud Rimawi in Al Dastour. The writer said that the Israeli aimed at ending all opposition to their idea of peace with the Arab countries and pressuring the Lebanese government into accepting Israel's permanent occupation of the south, he added.

It is true that the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) is exerting efforts to train people in various trades and helping solve the unemployment problem in Jordan, yet, the country requires quality rather than quantity, said Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaa' daily.

He said that the VTC should repeat public complaints about inefficient tradesmen, mechanics, electricians and builders who are in need of better training because they handle their tasks badly and cause economic losses to the country.

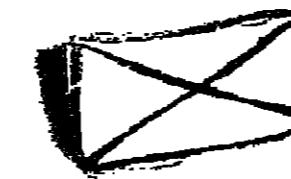
The writer said that the VTC is targeting the Arab population to implement a national health scheme which, he said, would cost JD 80 million. Financial considerations should never stop the concerned authorities from implementing this vital project for the country, said the writer.

The writer said that the money can simply be collected from the beneficiaries and those organisations employing them, suggested the writer.

He said that 90 per cent of

the population find themselves unable to pay the cost of their medical treatment in view of the rising prices of drugs and the high charges of specialists.

## Features



By Sabine Guez

NEW YORK — At the subway stop for 34th Street, far down at the end of the platform, Nancy indicates the small patch of concrete she calls home. Sandwiched between two stretches of railroad track, her belongings consist of an old rug spread out on the hard ground and a cardboard box which she uses as a table. "Here we are. This is where I live," says this modern cave dweller. "I used to own two apartments. Then I lost my grip," she adds, by way of explanation.

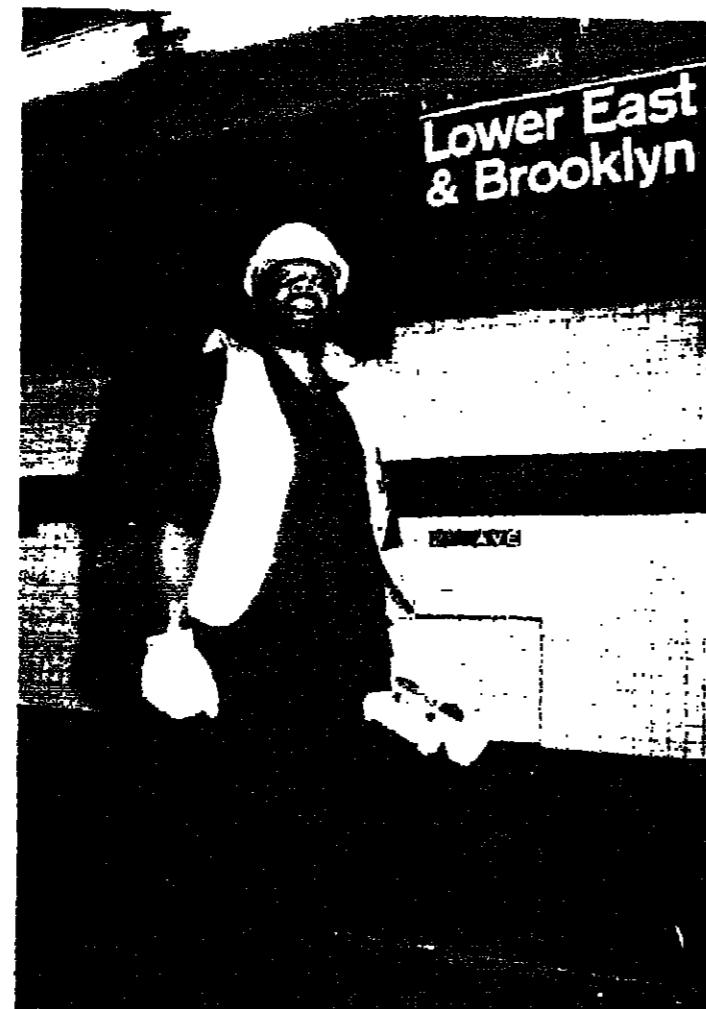
Nancy is 35 and has two children, whom she sees only on holidays. Her five closest neighbours — and they are indeed close — sleep in a slight dip in the ground nearby. One of them, a man wearing an old pair of slippers, is stretched out on some cardboard boxes, fast asleep. Slightly further off, where the platform is raised up and the dark almost impenetrable, live another eight people, including a man with one leg, and another with a bad cough.

It is estimated that 2,000 people live in the rat and cockroach-infested subway system, at least 200 of them in the tunnels, right next to the railroad track. New York subway's 469 stations and 1,142 kilometres of track may not offer luxury accommodation, but they do have the advantage of being open 24 hours a day and there are no bills to pay at the end of the month. But anything can happen in this subterranean maze built in the 19th century. Already this year about 20 people have been mutilated by trains as they wandered on the tracks; a few days ago, a young man locked in a tight embrace with a woman had his toes sliced off by a train.

Luckily for some of the tunnel dwellers, train conductors slow down in areas most likely to attract the down and out. Recently a driver managed to stop just in time to avoid running over three men lying drunk right on the tracks.

The stretch of subway between the stops at Second Avenue and Broadway-Lafayette are the most popular. With its rabbit warren of hidden passages, blind alleys and staircases that lead nowhere, there is scope for finding a spot which offers some privacy. Its other advantage is its proximity to the Bowery neighbourhood on Manhattan's Lower East Side, where there are still some Catholic soup kitchens offering free meals once a day.

These days, the clients of these soup kitchens are much younger than they used to be — 35 on the average. Ninety per cent of the people who live in the city's subways are men, and most of them are either mentally ill or drug addicts. Some of them earn a few dollars a day up on the streets, hustling goods of doubtful origin or washing windshields at the traffic lights. While the tunnel people are up in the outside world, down in the bowels of the subway, piles of old newspapers, mattresses, garbage.



P.C. Taylor, a New York Transit Authority tunnel superintendent, keeps track of homeless living underground (WNL photo)

hypodermic syringes used by heroin addicts and empty crack-cocaine capsules are testimony to their night-time underground existence.

Few of the 3.5 million users of Manhattan's subway have time to give the tunnel people more than a cursory glance when they see them. But even the most hardened New Yorker might be touched by the gentle manner of Cliff, 32: "It was a real stroke of luck finding a place here," he said. "I can keep an eye on what is going on, not like in the city shelters. Everyone knows each other here and we all protect each other." Cliff's friend, Mark, almost got his throat slit in a row over a bed cover in one of New York's municipal shelters.

Of course, there is a price to pay for living in the subway. Like the pain from the steel dust which causes Cliff's legs to swell up and gives him a permanent rash. "If I ever get out of here, it will probably be with cancer," he says. Adds Mark: "A lot of people here have tuberculosis." More than half of them, according to the city Transit Authority, the body responsible for the subway.

But what about the dark, and the rats? "The rats? We squash them underfoot," said Cliff. "People like me, we don't want to have a lot of people around us. I don't want other people to see me." Cliff swears he does not take crack, the cheap and highly

addictive form of cocaine that keeps so many other tunnel people going. But he does not want to talk about how he came to end up living here.

The only things that disturb the daily routine of Cliff and his friends are the police patrols. But word spreads fast, and by the time the policemen appear, the tunnel people have fled. Like tonight. Obviously the patrol has interrupted dinner. Two sausages are waiting to be cooked in a frying pan. There is a certain order in the 20 square metres which serve as a dormitory to 12 people and thousands of mosquitoes. No single space is left unused: there are bottles, two television sets attached to the live rail for power — ashtrays, chairs, clothes and shoes, even a few teddy bears, all of it neatly arranged. Placed, somewhat incongruously, next to a copy of the "New Tax Guide", published by the New York Times, are two metal boxes containing various drugs. On the wall behind a budding artist has painted an impressive cartoon.

At the end of another platform a mountain of garbage waiting to be dealt with by the Transport Authority cleaners, who are armed with vats of bleach and rubber gloves. Each day, the cleaners take away 90 tonnes of garbage. "Since 1989, we have collected 2 tonnes of hypodermic syringes, and not one of my men has been hurt," says P.C. Taylor.

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a track superintendent who has worked for the Transit Authority for 23 years. "My job is to make the network as safe as possible for everyone. We try to make the living conditions better by cleaning up, and the homeless people help us. But we are first and foremost a public transportation system and the homeless people build up a terrific amount of garbage. It all spills over onto the track, which can cause delays and sometimes fires."

"Sunglasses" — his nickname was given him by Taylor because he sleeps entirely naked, except for a pair of dark glasses — is the specialist in building camp fires. He wraps pieces of chicken in old newspapers smeared with filth and cooks them over a fire. The other tunnel people keep their distance from him, and he lives completely isolated, next to heaps of foul-smelling garbage. He has been there since 1979. "He doesn't speak. He makes gestures and sounds," said Taylor. "But he isn't dumb, I think he's... I don't know what he is," he added, lost for words. "When I see the terrible conditions in which he lives, and I go up close to him and hear he is listening to classical music, tears start to well up inside me."

Taylor is responsible for tackling the rat problem and he has had some success. As a youth in his native Virginia, he earned pocket money by catching snakes for the farmers — snakes eat the rats which do so much damage to field crops. In 1991 he embarked on a blitz against the tunnel rodents, a particularly resilient strain which can grow up to 30 cms long. "I have my own recipe," he said. "I use a poison called Vengeance, but that's not enough. Down here, rats can find chicken, pizza and all sorts of appetising things. Faced with a choice between a french fried potato and a sachet of poison, they have no hesitation in going for the former. So I lace the poison with peanut butter. Rats love it."

Taylor has decimated the rat population from several million to a few hundred thousand, a factor which is appreciated by the tunnel people. For these rats are also partial to human flesh. Rats are common, say the subway dwellers. Few of them can forget the sordid scene four years ago when a man was found dead beneath a pile of garbage at Grand Central Station, his body gnawed by rats. Sometimes, the tables are turned. Taylor recounts how he became curious about a pile of rat carcasses piled up at the Broadway-Lafayette subway station. Closer investigation led to the discovery that one of the tunnel dwellers had been eating raw rat meat, its flesh contaminated with poison.

In an effort to clean up the subways, New York City authorities have, for the past few years, been trying to get the tunnel people out. Since 1989, the number of subway dwellers has been cut by more than half from 5,000 to its present level of about 2,000.

The Homeless Outreach Unit, a force of 40 police officers, patrols the subway, offering to take the homeless to the municipal shelters, with the promise of a sandwich when they get there. The policemen and the tunnel dwellers know each other and are on first-name terms. Their courteous exchanges are in marked contrast with the brutality of the surroundings.

But the homeless people rarely take the bait. If they don't, they are forcibly evicted. "By making them obey the law, we can sometimes force them to change their lifestyles," said Lt. John Romero, who heads the police unit. "But many of them have clearly chosen to live outside society and they don't want to bend to any kind of rule."

The shelters offered by the city council are not an attractive alternative, as the authorities themselves admit. "The homeless people don't want to live in the shelters, for reasons of privacy, safety, health and well-being," said Marsh Martin, the city hall official charged with the problem of New York's homeless. "One of them once told me: 'In the subway, you sleep with one eye open. In the shelters, you sleep with both eyes open.'

Most of the city shelters are old warehouses, crammed with 800 people per room, many of them carriers of tuberculosis. Even in these cramped conditions, there is only room for a total of 30,000 people. But New York City's

homeless are three times that number. The 90,000 homeless are the gaping wound in the American Dream. Yet finding oneself without a roof over one's head is frighteningly easy, say social workers. One of the major causes is the simple fact that there is not enough cheap accommodation to go round. A national policy, started by former President Ronald Reagan in 1980, has cut the federal budget for building low-income housing from \$32 billion 13 years ago to a present figure of \$7 billion. New York City council builds more housing with its own resources than with those provided by the federal coffers. But with elections in mind, city officials are keeping a tight rein on spending, especially that which would benefit people who don't vote.

Some people become homeless when they lose their jobs. In the past three years, 350,000 firms have gone out of business in New York. It is estimated, for example, that 50 per cent of the construction workers are unemployed. "The problems start when people are no longer in a position to earn a living," said Clarence Boyce, director of the United Homeless Organisation, a non-profit group founded to help those with nowhere to go. "Big Brother (the government) is partly to blame for the situation, so Big Brother must do something to help," he added.

But there are some who have a

job and no home. Many families cannot pay the high rents in New York. Sometimes sleeping in the subway is a way of saving money until they can afford something better. Laurie and Bob, a couple who both have regular jobs, lived underground for six months to put aside enough money for a deposit and rent on an apartment.

In every five homeless people in New York has some sort of job, even though it may be on the black market. Two Mexicans, both of them illegal immigrants, work as labourers by day and sleep in the subway at night, beneath Fifth Avenue, Manhattan's smartest street. Their home is a pitch-black enclosure, 3 square metres. To reach it, they must hoist themselves up with the help of metal bars soldered into the wall. When he reaches their space, Taylor shines a flashlight into a nightmarish vision of a black hole infested with dozens of cockroaches 7 cms long. "Most of the homeless catch diseases carried by the rats," said Taylor, matter-of-factly. "It's inevitable. They sleep where the rats have urinated."

Some people become homeless because they are abandoned by their families, before being abandoned by society. Others, because they cannot look after themselves properly, like the mentally ill. In the 1960s and 1970s, psychiatric hospitals opened up their doors all over the

U.S. The idea was to recognise the patients' claim to freedom, and also to save money. But no out-patient support system was provided. Today, about 12,000 people deemed mentally ill sleep either on the streets or in the subway of New York. Many of them have become addicted to alcohol or drugs, making them even more vulnerable. That is the case of Bill Morales, a tunnel dweller nicknamed "The Abominable Snowman" because, says Taylor, "he is very hairy and has lived for years above the ceiling of the Broadway-Nassau station." New York's mental health agency plans to release a further 6,000 mentally sick people between now and the end of the century.

Taylor says he cannot help being caught up in some of the sad personal lives of the twilight people who live in the subway. "I would like to have seen Nancy and the Abominable Snowman arm in arm at the Clinton's inaugural ceremony," said Taylor, smiling grimly. "Bill Morales, freshly arrived from his ceiling hideout at Broadway-Nassau and Nancy, trying to hide the tatters in her evening dress, from 34th Street. Bill and Nancy, guests-of-honour of Hillary Clinton! I laugh, but there is nothing funny about all this. With every day that passes, the situation is getting worse and worse, and no-one gives a damn" — World News Link.



"Sunglasses" is one of about 2,000 people who spend their nights in the subway tunnels (WNL photo)

## How a Catholic order finally confessed its shame

By Alison Puchy  
Reuter

PERTH, Australia — Years after hundreds of children were sexually and mentally abused in Australian child care institutions, a Catholic teacher order has finally confessed its responsibility and deep shame.

The victims, who have long told stories of male rape, beatings and systematic cover-ups, are now seeking belated damages from the congregation of Christian Brothers.

The children, many of whom now in their 50s, were among thousands sent from Britain to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in a now-discredited migration programme run by 35 charities.

Those sent to Australia — mostly orphans, child migrants and state wards between the ages of six and 16 — were housed at four institutions in western Australia between the late 1930s and the 1960s.

Gordon Grant, 59, a child migrant from Birmingham, England, remembers being called over by the brother superior soon after he arrived at Bindoon in 1948.

"He asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up," Mr. Grant said. "I just said I didn't know yet."

"Without any warning, this huge fist came from nowhere and punched me so hard that I sometimes once or twice across the concrete dining room floor."

Another brother later checked his injury and told Mr. Grant his nose was broken, but no medical treatment was offered.

Such horrific allegations have been documented in newspaper articles, books, films and a recent acclaimed television mini-series,

but were largely ignored by the order itself until this month.

Advertisements published in newspapers throughout Australia, the Christian Brothers apologised unreservedly to former students who suffered, begging their forgiveness.

The unexpected statement described the violations as a source of deep shame and regret and offered counselling and practical assistance to those needing it.

But the former students' lobby group, victims of institutionalised cruelty, exploitation and supporters (voices), feels the brothers' statement does not go far enough. It wants a government inquiry and compensation in line with multi-million-dollar payouts in Canada following similar scandals there involving the same order.

Even if it were possible to quantify the damage done in each individual case, just handing out money is a very limited response to the needs that are there," Christian Brothers spokesman Brother Tony Shanahan told Reuters.

Bed-wetters were singled out for some of the cruellest treatment by the Christian Brothers, being segregated in special dormitories and forced to endure humiliations, according to former students.

"We prefer to offer practical assistance, such as counselling and therapy, and to help organise family reunions for students who have recently traced their families in Britain."

The order does not deny some boys experienced shocking abuse at the hands of their custodians.

"Some of the stories have made by stomach churn," Brother Shanahan admitted. "I'm a trained psychologist and have worked with sexual abuse victims — I don't want to downplay or dismiss the potential damage."

He adds, however, that many former students defend the order and deny having been physically or sexually abused.

## German anti-fascists declare war on racists

By Kirstin Ridley  
Reuter

COLOGNE, Germany — Germany's radical left says it has had enough of violent neo-Nazi attacks on foreigners and teipid responses from officials.

"We're declaring war. That's what Germany really needs," says 22-year-old Sascha Stainz of Cologne's Youth against Racism in Europe (JRE), one of the leaders of a host of militant anti-fascist groups emerging throughout Germany.

Posters, stamped with the group's emblem — a fist smashing through a swastika — and bearing the slogans "Sorrow, anger, resistance," "No forgetting, no forgiving" and "Stop the Nazis hit back," are scattered around its cluttered office in a Cologne back street.

All had one thing in common, once they arrived at the Christian Brothers' orphanages, they were subjected to harsh discipline, heavy labour, Dickensian living conditions and poor nutrition.

They have been gaining momentum since skinhead arsonists killed five Turkish women and children in the town of Solingen on May 29 and a national controversy broke out because Chancellor Helmut Kohl decided to attend their funeral.

"Antifa" as they are known, have been part of Germany's left-wing fringe for years.

They have been gaining momentum since skinhead arsonists killed five Turkish women and children in the town of Solingen on May 29 and a national controversy broke out because Chancellor Helmut Kohl decided to attend their funeral.

Ranging from violent anarchists to left-wing school debaters, "Antifa" groups have sprung up at schools, clubs and even health food shops in reaction to Germany's apparent inability to counter racist violence.

There are an estimated 60 anti-fascist groups in Cologne and nearby Bonn alone.

The problem is that I believe racism is deeply engrained in German politics. Foreigners have no rights — no right to vote an no German passport. That creates a certain political mood," said the GNN spokeswoman.

Like many in Germany, she believes that new asylum laws introduced on July 1 which allow border guards to close Germany's traditionally open doors on hundreds of thousands of immigrants, helped send the message: "Burning foreigners is wrong, but we have too many."

"That played right into the hands of rightists," she said.

Many leftists believe it was no coincidence that racists killed the Turkish family in Solingen — an attack which followed a fire-bombing in the northern city of Moelln last November that cost three Turkish lives — a few days after parliament voted in favour of the tough new asylum regulations.

"We need a kind of revolution," said author and lecturer Linda Orth, a 38-year-old left-wing activist in Bonn. "The entire German way of thinking needs to be radically overhauled. I have Tunisian friends who will only go to Bonn's train station at night with a gas pistol because they have been consistently attacked by skinheads and are scared."

"But I'm an optimist. If I thought Germans were basically racist, I'd pack my bags. As it is, I'm just ashamed," added Ms. Orth.

Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters has said he fears growing political extremism as leftists retaliate against far-right gangs and Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger has implored extremists to stop fighting.

"If people fight on the principle of an eye for an eye, we'll just be left with the blind," she has said.

The leftists remain adamant.

"The state has the ways and means of putting neo-Nazis behind bars," said the GNN spokeswoman. "We just need to make sure they do it."

## Israeli construction struggling without Arabs

By David Ward  
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM —

In Israel, the myth of a land of Jewish builders raising a state out of the desert has come up against a very different reality.

"For the last 26 years, only Arabs worked in construction," said Avi Prussak, a senior manager with Israel's largest private construction firm. "In Israel, there are no builders."

As a vice president of Ashtron Engineering Company, Mr. Prussak oversees commercial and residential building in Jerusalem. But like other Israeli firms, Ashtron has been forced to look for Jews — and even Romanians or Thais — to replace the low-paid Palestinians who were the mainstay of the industry.

In April, following a wave of attacks on Israelis, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sealed off the occupied territories and limited the number of permits issued to Palestinians to work in Israel.

## U.S. legislators narrowly pass Clinton's budget deficit reduction plan

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives passed President Bill Clinton's crucial budget deficit plan by a two-vote margin Thursday, handing him victory after a full-scale political battle whose outcome was uncertain until the last votes were cast.

Mr. Clinton celebrated the cliffhanger victory with a statement in the White House Rose Garden, calling the vote "an important first step in changing America."

By a 218-216 vote, the budget bill was sent to the Senate, which was to vote late Friday. One undecided Senate vote — that of Democrat Bob Kerrey of Nebraska — separated Democrats from the majority needed for final passage there.

"This will not by itself accomplish what we need to do but it is a critical beginning," said House Speaker Democrat Thomas Foley in pleading for support, moments before the vote started.

"We must continue the process of deficit reduction and we will," said Mr. Foley.

Before the vote, administration officials warned defeat would deal a crippling blow to the Clinton presidency. Approval opened the way to the remainder of Mr. Clinton's agenda, most impor-

tantly health care reform.

At the end of the 15 minutes allotted for voting, the tally board showed a vote of 216-214 with four Democrats yet to vote. When two of the four finally voted "yes" at the end of several agonising minutes, a cheer went up from Democrats.

"This economic plan represents an important first step in changing America. For the first time in a very long time, we are making a meaningful down-payment on the federal deficit," said Mr. Clinton in his Rose Garden appearance amid cheering White House staff members.

"The margin was close but the mandate is clear," he said.

In the end, 41 Democrats joined all 175 Republicans in opposing the measure. By comparison, the original version of the bill had a more comfortable six-vote margin.

The American people should know that a large number of congressmen who voted... in favour of change for our country did so believing in their hearts that they were going to greatly increase the chances of not being re-elected," said Vice President Al Gore, appearing on Cable News Network.

During debate Republicans said passage of the bill would

endanger the economy.

"We oppose this because it's a giant tax on the American dream," declared representative Dick Arney of Texas, chairman of the Republican Conference.

"You Democrats may give your president a political victory to-day, but it's a defeat for our economy and the wellbeing of the American people."

The plan cuts growth in the national debt from about \$1.5 trillion to \$1 trillion over five years. The debt, the accumulation of annual deficits, is now more than \$4 trillion.

The bill was tough to pass because legislators are under constant pressure to oppose new taxes or spending cuts, yet this bill required \$255 billion in painful spending cuts and \$241 billion in new taxes.

Democrats said most of the taxes will be paid by the richest one to two per cent of Americans, and some by the elderly. The only new tax most Americans will notice is a rise in the 14.1 cent-per-gallon petrol tax to 18.4 cents.

But Republicans argued there were new taxes hidden as higher user fees on national parks, recreational areas and other services.

The plan also provides the big-

gest new social programmes for the poor in 20 years.

"I don't think we can forget about the unmet needs of many children who will benefit from this legislation," Democratic representative Robert Matsui said during debate.

The plan increases tax credits for the working poor with children, and for the first time gives childless poor couples small tax credits. It also increases funds for immunising poor children and provides tax breaks for urban investments.

Under the bill, corporations will see their tax rate rise to 35 per cent from 34 per cent on taxable income above \$10 million.

Throughout the day, Democratic leaders and Mr. Clinton lobbied intensely for votes. Mr. Clinton made dozens of telephone calls to members of Congress.

As the clock ticked toward a final vote, House Democratic leaders negotiated to win the votes of party moderates and conservatives. Mr. Foley offered them the promise of votes later this year on bills to limit mandatory spending, to require the White House to submit a spending reduction bill and on a so-called balanced budget amendment to the constitution.

## Leading world economists applaud end of 'narrow' ERM

LONDON (AFP) — Six of the world's most eminent economists, including three Nobel prizewinners, Friday applauded the end of the "narrow" European Exchange Rate (ERM) saying the new wider bands presented a "significant opportunity".

In an article in the Financial Times, they argued that last weekend's decision to loosen exchange rate fluctuation bands to 15 per cent was "sound and pragmatic" and that the move had been "inevitable".

The State Council, mindful of soaring deficits, warned that state revenue has not grown significantly in 1993 and tax collection has not kept pace with China's 14 per cent growth.

"Violations of state tax laws

and policies — including unauthorised tax cuts, granting preferential tax policies without state permission and tax evasion through illicit contracts of turnover taxes by enterprises — have led to great losses in state revenues," it said.

The nationwide tax circular

appeared somewhat at odds with

an official announcement last month that Peking was planning a tax break for low-income earners hit by inflation in cities running at an annual 20 per cent.

The decree ordered more diligent collection of taxes from China's growing ranks of self-employed entrepreneurs.

Peking is tantalised by the prospect of taxing the nation's rapidly growing individual wealth and is on track to collect far more than last year's record \$161 million.

Statistics show collection from individuals totalled \$55.2 million from January through April, a 27 per cent jump that outstripped growth of industrial and commercial tax revenues.

Tax collection has become a dangerous calling in China.

Since 1985, attacks on tax officials in the course of their work have left 22 dead, 36 crippled and 1,452 seriously injured nationwide and there had been 1,916 attacks on tax offices, the official Economic Reference News said last month.

## Niger to cut salary spending, raise taxes

NIAMEY (R) — Niger has told the International Monetary Fund it plans to cut salary spending and increase tax receipts this year in line with a medium-term structural adjustment programme.

The official ANF news agency said the government planned to cut wage spending to 36 billion CFA francs (\$121 million) in 1993 from \$38 billion (\$128 million) in 1991 by reducing recruitment, encouraging early retirement and lowering some salaries.

The government spent 40 billion (\$135 million) on wages in 1992.

ANF said the government aimed to increase tax receipts by 4.3 per cent over the previous year to 53 billion CFA (\$178 million) in 1993.

Planned measures include enlarging the tax base, introducing some new taxes and revising others.

In 1992, a large proportion of the tax income, almost 30 billion CFA (\$100 million), was spent on servicing foreign debt of \$1.6 billion.

Niger is impoverished by drought and has few natural resources except uranium. Gross domestic product growth fell to minus 6.5 per cent in 1992 from minus 0.5 per cent, government figures show.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Your family is expecting a great deal from you now, though little is said, so be sure you do your utmost

to bring greater harmony and security into that important sphere of your somewhat puzzling circumstances.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make a campaign for future growth-and-expansion—today privately or with a confidential advisor and tonight use care not to upset a family member.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is the day for you to get out and discuss future plans with selective and discriminating friends and acquaintances, tonight mull over advice given.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be alert to the various civic or credit conditions that you can work out today but tonight keep away from public places where there could be trouble.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can look into all kinds of new interests during daylight hours and benefit by data obtained but tonight look out for an angry official.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into whatever responsibilities you have for you can handle them with more than usual astuteness but tonight rest and relax on your laurels.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be very practical in whatever you do especially in getting property, possessions in good shape while tonight don't get into a work matter that palls.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think about what you can do

to push your own personal interests to a new success and well being and put in motion today but tonight avoid recreations.

TAURUS: (March 21 to April 19) During the daytime get into whatever entertainments, recreation that appeals to you while tonight please your mate and avoid an older person you've just met.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have some situation at your residence you can improve and make operate as you wish during the day but tonight steer clear of pay off.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't let an older partner take up your evening after a day at which you dash around doing whatever is required of you in public matters.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be very practical in whatever you do especially in getting property, possessions in good shape while tonight don't get into a work matter that palls.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Find out by asking directly where you stand with partners during the daytime and come to a new agreement but tonight do nothing to upset any associate.

## THE Daily Crossword by James Barrick

### ACROSS

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# Economy



JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1993

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET  
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SAMIAH  
TELEPHONE: 642178 / 643170



WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ABAD BANK	1,936,915	174.00	174.00	174.00
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1,492,145	164.00	164.00	164.00
CITADEL BANK	41,492	160.00	160.00	160.00
NAME OF JORDAN	26,435	5.25	5.25	5.25
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	219,325	2.18	2.18	2.18
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	743,370	4.68	4.68	4.68
THE HORIZON BANK	154,123	5.00	5.00	5.00
JORDAN BANK	6,928	2.12	2.12	2.12
ABAD JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	78,192	1.72	1.72	1.72
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	182,480	5.00	5.00	5.00
UNION BANK FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	52,885	5.25	5.25	5.25
JOHN LEWIS & PEAKE BANK	127,482	5.00	5.00	5.00
BRITISH BANKS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	26,773	4.70	4.70	4.70
ABAD BANK FOR INVESTMENT	49,198	1.72	1.72	1.72
ABAD BANK FOR INVESTMENT / JORDAN	85,425	2.04	2.04	2.04
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	39,323	4.30	4.30	4.30
JOHN LEWIS & PEAKE BANK	507,161	2.94	2.94	2.94
JOHN LEWIS & PEAKE BANK	32,942	2.04	2.04	2.04
JOHN LEWIS & PEAKE BANK	1,345	4.25	4.25	4.25
JOHN LEWIS & PEAKE BANK	181,297	3.20	3.20	3.20
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	34,222	1.72	1.72	1.72
VAN LEEUWEN & REINHOLDT	395	3.00	3.00	3.00
ABAD LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	2,125	2.00	2.00	2.00
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	32,405	3.25	3.25	3.25
AL-HUDA AL-ABAYE INSURANCE	527	6.78	6.78	6.78
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	174,429	2.00	2.00	2.00
IRAD DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES	24,114	2.00	2.00	2.00
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	7,457	1.00	1.00	1.00
ABAD INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	8,192	5.25	5.25	5.25
JORDAN TOURISM & EPA COMPLEX	6,564	0.57	0.57	0.57
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	135,462	1.50	1.50	1.50
JORDAN CHILD REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	15,454	1.50	1.50	1.50
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENT LEASING	33	1.00	1.00	1.00
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	4,377	3.00	3.00	3.00
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL COOP. & INVESTMENT	1,374	2.00	2.00	2.00
JORDAN FEDERATION / AL-ADAB	40,470	2.00	2.00	2.00
UNITED NATIONS HOTELS & CONVENTION	24,700	9.00	9.00	9.00
ABAD INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	44,793	3.75	3.75	3.75
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL & MANUFACTURING	1,414	1.00	1.00	1.00
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORY	22,478	4.25	4.25	4.25
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	8,405	4.25	4.25	4.25
THE JORDAN POTASH	99,415	1.00	1.00	1.00
MOULIN INDUSTRIES	121,212	8.42	8.42	8.42
THE JORDAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	154,723	12.00	12.00	12.00
THE JORDAN HORSE MILLS	154,723	9.00	9.00	9.00
JORDAN CLOTHING MANUFACTURING	1,344	1.00	1.00	1.00
JORDAN DAIRY	243,228	2.00	2.00	2.00
THE JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	92,153	4.10	4.10	4.10
JORDAN PAPER & CARPENTER FACTORIES	47,235	4.00	4.00	4.00
THE JORDAN PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	14,389	2.00	2.00	2.00
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	82,121	2.00	2.00	2.00
THE JORDAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	2,125	1.00	1.00	1.00
THE JORDAN HORSE MILLS	154,723	12.00	12.00	12.00
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## Survival Bosnian generals meet to mull Serb withdrawal offer

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb army chief General Ratko Mladic went to Sarajevo Airport Friday to formally offer newly-captured mountain positions to U.N. peacekeeping monitors, provided they are also denied to Muslim forces.

As the talks got under way, the United States-inspired threat to strike at Serb forces from the air came in for more criticism, and the U.N. announced a new relief mission to save up to two million from possible starvation this winter.

Gen. Mladic was meeting with his opposite number General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Muslim-Bosnian army, and U.N. commander in Bosnia General Franciscus Briquemont.

Acceptance of the offer by Bosnia's beleaguered Muslim-led government was seen as a key step in a successful rescue of peace talks in Geneva next week.

International mediator Lord Owen told a news conference, in Geneva that Muslim, Serb and Croat leaders had agreed to restart the talks Monday.

NATO states, which have

backed a U.S. plan to launch air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs if they tighten their siege of Sarajevo, are due to meet in Brussels Monday to discuss the controversial threat.

The Serb offer to quit newly-taken positions on Igman and Bjelascica Mountains and open two roads to bring relief aid to Sarajevo was seen as a shrewd move to bring the Muslim side back to the Geneva negotiations.

Observers in Sarajevo, however, said there was some suspicion that by turning over the two peaks to the U.N. with the stipulation that they remain neutral, the Serbs were effectively blocking the main Muslim army supply route.

Gen. Briquemont cautioned that nothing was settled yet.

"We have no agreement. It was a common statement and a proposal," he told a news briefing.

"The zone which will be evacuated by the Serb side must be a sort of free zone only occupied by UNPROFOR elements... if they don't agree I shall say (the) proposal is impossible to implement in

the field."

The U.N. meanwhile announced its intention to reopen the main land route for aid to Sarajevo and central Bosnia, which has been closed for a week by a Muslim offensive in central Bosnia.

Launching "operation lifeline" with a warning that the survival of up to 2.2 million people this winter was at stake, Gen. Briquemont said the U.N. had to "take new measures to help avert a human tragedy of immense proportions."

He called for hundreds more U.N. troops, including reconnaissance soldiers, engineering squadrons, logistics staff and military police to ensure the success of the venture.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, Lord Owen said the threat of air strikes in Bosnia, including air strikes, with NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, a NATO spokesman said.

But Friday's Washington Post quoted an official of the Clinton administration as saying: "With luck, if the talks go well, we won't have to bomb them at all. That is the primary goal."

"I won't say it's easy to issue threats from outside Bosnia but it is something which is like studying maps at military headquarters," he said.

"I can tell you that it is a major worry for me because we are on a peacekeeping footing in an area where there has never been peace. It is easier to make threats than to carry them out," the Belgian general added.

But in Washington, the threat appeared to recede, with a senior U.S. State Department official saying it may take another meeting after next Monday to decide on action.

The official denied the process was being dragged out.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was due in Italy Friday to discuss military operations in Bosnia, including air strikes, with NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, a NATO spokesman said.

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A fire rages in the warehouse district in Shenzhen after it was sparked by two fierce explosions on Thursday (AFP photo)

## China to probe massive industrial blasts

SHENZHEN, China (AFP) — China set up a special squad Friday to probe the cause of the massive explosion Thursday that rocked the flagship city of its liberal economic programme, and issued health warnings to alarmed residents.

As the toll in the special economic zone of Shenzhen continued to vary widely, Chinese Vice Premier Zou Jiahua flew in from Peking to assess the destruction and the provincial government in Guangzhou and Shenzhen's government set up two disaster teams.

Meanwhile, President Yeltsin joined Friday in quenching the final embers of a fire triggered by an immense double blast that was so strong that residents in nearby Shenzhen authorities issued televised warnings, telling city inhabitants and farmers not to drink water from local wells and to wash and cook their fruit vegetable thoroughly, while tests were carried out.

The explosion sent a gigantic mushroom cloud of gas and dust into the sky, triggering fears of toxic contamination.

Hong Kong, which depends on the region for its drinking water, said no change had been detected in water quality, but it strengthened border controls on imports of vegetables, especially from Shenzhen, which supplies 10 per cent of its needs.

According to the latest officially, eight people were confirmed dead, although the figure could rise as the search of ruins covering 20,000 square metres (200,000 square feet) got underway. Hospitals admitted 140 injured, some seriously ill.

But the semi-official Hong Kong China News Service and Shenzhen Television said at least 70 were killed, and residents told reporters they had seen between 30 and 40 bodies hauled to the wreckage.

"They fear such a serious accident could surely raise questions (from foreign investors) on how the country is coping with its safety measures," he said.

There were fears the blast could even affect Peking's bid to host the 2000 Olympics, which will be decided by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Sept. 23, he suggested.

Officials and the local press said the first explosion, in an open storage area, involved the ignition of ammonium nitrate, a compound used in fertilisers and explosives.

Hong Kong feared an earthquake had occurred.

Shenzhen's spokesman Huang Xinhua said.

The other will supervise the cleanup and make provision for the victims, he said.

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Charges filed against alleged 'madam to the stars'

LOS ANGELES (R) — A woman who authorities have dubbed Hollywood's "madam to the stars" was charged with running a high-priced call girl ring and trafficking in cocaine. Heidi Fleiss, 27, whose client list has been rumoured to include celebrities and studio executives, could be sentenced to up to 11 years in prison if convicted. Ms. Fleiss was arrested on June 5 in an undercover operation in which a detective posed as a businessman seeking to provide women for his Japanese clients. She was later released on \$100,000 bail. She was charged Thursday with five felony counts of pandering "by procuring for prostitution" and one count of sale or transportation of cocaine, the district attorney's office said. Arraignment was set for next Monday. "The allegation is that there were a lot of Hollywood figures involved in this," a district attorney's spokesman said. He declined to give names or provide details of the case.

Clinton may have half-sister — paper

PHOENIX, Arizona (R) — President Bill Clinton, who already has a California man who says he's a half-brother, may also have a half-sister living in Arizona, a Phoenix newspaper reported Thursday. A 52-year-old Tucson woman's birth certificate lists William Jefferson Blythe of Sherman, Texas as her father... the same name as Mr. Clinton's father, the Arizona Republic reported. Sharon Pettijohn was born with the last name Blythe in Kansas, Missouri on May 11, 1945, five years before Mr. Clinton's mother married his father, a travelling salesman who died only weeks before Mr. Clinton was born. White House spokesman Dee Dee Myers Thursday declined comment on the report.

Soprano Montserrat Caballe hospitalised with heart trouble

BARCELONA (AP) — Opera star Montserrat Caballe, whose versatile soprano inaugurated the 1992 summer Olympics, was hospitalized with what appeared to be minor heart problems and was expected to be released in two to five days. Caballe, 60, was in the coronary unit at the Corachan Clinic for "slight heart insufficiencies," Dr. Jordi Trias De Bes said. He told reporters she would remain in intensive care for 24 hours. He said she was totally conscious and described her as "content, relaxed and in good spirits." Dr. Trias De Bes gave no specifics about the nature of Caballe's heart problems but said he thought they were minor, which would allow her to quickly resume her performing schedule.

U.S. introduces law on TV violence

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bills designed to rein in violent television programming were introduced in the House and Senate. The House measure, requiring that sets be equipped with a computer chip to block out certain shows, was immediately assaulted by CBS. That bill was introduced with bipartisan support. The Senate bill would require the government to regulate violence much as it does indecent speech. "This is the beginning of government regulation of programme content, and no matter how well intended, is contrary to the principles of a free society. Therefore, CBS will oppose the... bill as presently drafted," the network said in a statement on the house legislation. CBS had no immediate comment on the Senate bill, which would require the Federal Communications Commission to develop standards for violent programming and designate the hours of the day in which it could be broadcast, to protect children from exposure.

Jurassic Park is Britain's highest grossing film

LONDON (R) — Steven Spielberg's dinosaur blockbuster Jurassic Park has become Britain's highest grossing film of all time, its distributors said Thursday. United International Pictures (UIP) said the film earned \$24.2 million (\$36.3 million) since it was released on July 16. "Jurassic Park" has broken all daily and weekly box office records and thousands of house records at cinemas across the country." UIP said in a statement. The film which stars British actor/director Richard Attenborough as a mad scientist who recreates prehistoric predators was given a PG (parental guidance) rating, with a warning to parents some scenes may be disturbing to children. The previous top grossing film in Britain were "Ghost", "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial", "Crocodile Dundee", "Robin Hood — Prince of Thieves" and "Terminator 2".

## Parliament suspends Yeltsin privatisation decree

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia's conservative parliament Friday voted to block a move by President Boris Yeltsin to speed up the government's privatisation programme.

Deputies, resuming the offensive against the reformist Russian leader, voted by 140, with 15 abstaining, to suspend his decree last month to accelerate a programme for wide-scale sell-off of state industry.

The expected vote by the parliament, marking a further stage in renewed confrontation between the Kremlin leader and the legislature, means the decree will now go to the Constitutional Court for a ruling on its validity.

The Supreme Soviet, chaired by Mr. Yeltsin's political arch-

rival Ruslan Khasbulatov, ignored Privatisation Minister Anatoly Chubais who denounced parliament's move.

Before the vote was taken, he told the session that the suspension resolution was "economically absurd, juridically unfounded, politically flawed and devoid of common sense."

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin earlier called at a government meeting for acceleration of the privatisation drive and implementation of Mr. Yeltsin's decrees.

Conservative Deputy Bronislav Babayev, presenting the suspension resolution, said: "The government is conducting privatisation as set by presidential decrees and is ignoring the decisions of

the Supreme Soviet."

Mr. Yeltsin signed a decree last May to promote and accelerate the privatisation programme which represents the cornerstone of reforms to switch Russia from a centralised to a market economy.

Parliament replied by suspending the effect of the decree and sending it to the constitutional court for a decision.

Mr. Yeltsin, after curtailing his holiday to deal with a series of parliamentary challenges to government reforms, bounced back on July 26 with a similar decree to set the privatisation programme back on track.

Friday's resolution was aimed at this second decree.

Mr. Chubais later hinted reporters that Mr. Yeltsin had anticipated parliament's action. "Our counter-measures are ready. They are in my briefcase," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, President Yeltsin joined Friday in quenching the final embers of a fire triggered by an immense double blast that was so strong that residents in nearby Shenzhen authorities issued televised warnings, telling city inhabitants and farmers not to drink water from local wells and to wash and cook their fruit vegetable thoroughly, while tests were carried out.

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## U.N. has cash for only a month

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations, owed more than \$2 billion in unpaid dues and facing its worst financial crisis, has only enough cash to last a month, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has told

in letters to government heads or foreign minister, he said: "I should emphasise that the unpreceded demands on the United Nations, the shortfall in contributions from so many member states and the total depletion of the organisation's financial reserves render the present situation the most critical it has ever faced."

Unless substantial payments were received within the next

month, it would "not be possible to finance new undertakings and even existing operations will be in jeopardy," he warned.

Dr. Ghali said the U.N.'s cash on hand amounted to \$380 million while monthly expenses totalled \$310 million.

He said the 184 U.N. members between them owed \$248 million in regular budget dues and another \$1.193 billion for peacekeeping operations, which have increased vastly in recent years.

According to the latest available figures, as of July 15 the United States was the biggest debtor, owing about \$836 million — more than \$517 million towards the regular budget for 1993

and previous years, and over \$318 million for peacekeeping.

Next came Russia, owing nearly \$509 million (\$91 million and \$418 million respectively), followed by Japan, which had fully paid its regular dues but still owed about \$99 million for peacekeeping.

Germany's regular dues were also fully paid up but it owed \$78 million for peacekeeping.

The secretary-general's letter went to the heads of state or government of the 15 members of the Security Council — the body responsible for peacekeeping — and to the foreign ministers of approximately 150 other states that are in arrears.

But Mr. De Klerk had countered that the government had for months been in talks with leaders from various sections of the community, and that the time for talking was over, the source said.

"Tough decisions sometimes have to be made, and the time had probably already passed for those decisions."

Tanks and armoured vehicles equipped with heavy calibre machine guns are awaiting deployment in the East Rand townships east of here, where 162 people have been killed in the past few days.

A government source said the African National Congress (ANC) had stressed the need for consultation between the security forces and the black communities they are supposed to serve.

The government had opted to use its prerogative to govern, and had accepted the ANC's right to criticise the way Mr. De Klerk and Law and Order Minister Heribert Kriel, who is in charge of the

police, had handled the situation.

The gang raced through the train and ordered women to lie down before opening fire on the men in the carriages, a witness on the train told the south African news agency (SAPA).

Joint security operation, used that prerogative, the source added.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus launched an attack Friday when told that Portuguese-speaking veterans, probably members of the now defunct 32 Battalion, had been deployed in the East Rand townships of Kyaletchong and Tokozza.

# Sports

## Doctor who treated Lewis speaks out

BOSTON (R) — The cardiologist who gave Boston Celtics captain Reggie Lewis a conditional go-ahead to resume his professional basketball career said Thursday that Lewis died one day before heart monitoring efforts were finalized.

Doctor Gilbert Mudge, the director of clinical cardiology at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital who made the controversial diagnosis, spoke out for the first time since Lewis died last week.

"My opinion regarding the possibility of Reggie's return to professional basketball was always conditional and dependent on further testing, careful monitoring, and the progress of a planned exercise programme," Mudge said in a statement.

Mudge said he was "deeply saddened" by Lewis' death and said he had refrained from commenting on the case until he received permission from Lewis' widow, Donna.

fainting was caused by a dangerous irregular heartbeat and advised the Celtics captain to retire.

Mudge had been vilified by Celtics fans after Lewis' death for giving him the green light to resume playing. But the players' wife said that Lewis had sought additional consultations from team of California heart specialists and he was not planning to resume his career based on Mudge's diagnosis without further testing and monitoring of his condition.

Lewis was complying with a regimen that Mudge had recommended, including an exercise programme, the doctor said. He added that the Celtics captain was apprised of all medical details about his condition.

Funeral services for Lewis were held Monday at Northeastern University in Boston, where he finished his college career and was the school's all-time leading scorer.

Lewis had sought Mudge's opinion after a team of Boston doctors concluded that Lewis' heart had failed.



American Leroy Burrell raises his arms after winning the 100 metres event at the Zurich track and field meeting. Competitors from the top are: (left to right) Drummond, Christie, Lewis, Fredericks and Burrell and Miller (LFC photo).

## Auriol leads New Zealand Rally

ROTORUA, New Zealand (AFP) — Frenchman Didier Auriol snatched the lead as the Rally of New Zealand threatened to turn into a three-horse race Friday.

Auriol, compatriot Franck Delecour and the young Scotman Colin McRae scrambled to the top after 10 special stages on the second day of the event.

Auriol, in a Toyota Celica, finished the 19th stage as overall leader in 4hrs 23 mins after starting fourth.

McRae, in his Subaru Legacy, was two seconds behind him, while Delecour, who incurred a deliberate 20 seconds penalty on the first leg, fought magnificently to lie just five seconds off the pace at the half-way mark of the rally.

Delecour, who took a deliberate 20 seconds penalty on the first day in order to follow his rally tracks, was 28 seconds off the lead after the 14th stage.

He fought back into contention on the way home, picking up a 17 seconds on Auriol on the sharp 20.95 kilometre 19th stage after being 18 seconds down at the start of it.

"The penalty decision yesterday was made by the Ford team, and that's the way we chose it," Delecour said Friday night.

"It was very pleasing on the run home to finish the way he



John McRae (left) of Scotland, second, and Colin McRae (right) in his Toyota Celica during the 19th special stage of the New Zealand Rally (AFP photo).

Didier Auriol has left it to me to decide what I want to race. I consider it an important leg, I must try to be first at the finish," Auriol significantly improved, by winning stages 12 and 13 and McRae won stages 12 and 15 while Juha Kankkunen was the penultimate stage.

The new combined McRae 44.80 km 12th stage took its toll on 1981 world champion Ari Vatanen, who had set a new record by eight seconds on stage 13 with a time of 17:05.

## Mazda Classic

## Graf advances, Capriati pulls out

CARLSBAD, California (Agencies) — Steffi Graf let a three-game lead slip away in the first set Thursday, but then went on to rout Sandrine Testud 7-5, 6-1 and advance to the quarterfinals of the \$375,000 Mazda Classic.

The top-ranked German said she had no recurrence of the dizziness and sore throat that caused her to withdraw from doubles play Tuesday night after a single's victory.

Instead, she blamed a lack of concentration for allowing Testud, a Frenchwoman ranked 95th in the world, to come back in the first set.

No. 5 Magdalena Maleeva dropped Jennifer Safron 6-3, 6-1.

Jennifer Capriati, the two-time defending tourney champion, had her pulled back muscle examined Thursday. The injury caused her to withdraw before her first singles match Wednesday night.

She also withdrew from doubles Thursday but said she expects to play in a Toronto that begins Aug. 16. She was advised to treat the injury with rest and ice.

Charity Thursday when they fined him \$5,000 pounds sterling (\$7,891) for making an obscene gesture at a linesman during Arsenal's F.A. Cup final replay victory over Sheffield Wednesday in May.

And the two teams are expected to be less than charitable to each other in the match itself, having played an acrimonious friendly in South Africa two weeks ago which Arsenal won 2-1. Both Arsenal goals were scored by Wright from controversial penalties and the Manchester United captain Bryan Robson was sent off.

Opening lead.

Even experts tremble at the prospect of finding the right opening lead — it is the most difficult decision in bridge. Yet there is generally enough information to be gained from the bidding to make it better than a guess. For example, look only at the West hand and the auction. Given that North-South do not open four-card minors and play a

two-over-one response as a game lead, we have all the information we need to find the bidding opening lead.

The table of open bidding in most textbooks would suggest that the job of shades is the right lead and no vacuum that would fit the size. However, there are several rounds of bidding here to guide to a different choice. To start with, you know North has at least five hearts and South bid four hearts — so it seems three-card support, too, it's not a four-card with diamonds — a trumps. Looking at your hand, West should conclude that East can not hold more than one heart. In addition, since West holds the ace of diamonds, he needs a call of minus one to drop all the cards and draw a blank.

Now you have the lead of the auction, so turn to the lead of the class. You can't trump lead with the ace on the first trump lead with the ace and revert to hearts, and partner will be a happy reward.

Indeed, Mr. either six hearts, six in trump would have a ruined home as long as two high hearts are cashed from the South hand. When West shows out on the second heart, declarer can take the marked finesse for the pair of hearts.

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No. later than August 13, 1993.

## World Cup qualifiers

## Brazil's troubles multiply

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira might have thought his problems were over when his team thrashed Venezuela 5-1 on Sunday in a World Cup qualifier.

In fact, they were only just beginning.

Within 24 hours, FIFA announced that reserve goalkeeper Zeni was suspended after traces of cocaine were found in dope tests taken following Brazil's humiliating 2-0 defeat in Bolivia July 25.

Another 24 hours and veteran striker Careca, in whom Parreira had kept faith despite massive criticism, wrote a letter to the Brazilian Football Confederation saying he was dropping out of the squad for personal reasons.

On Wednesday, FIFA ordered full back Jorginho to be released to play for his Bayern Munich in a Bundesliga match Saturday.

On the same day, striker Bebeto suffered a knee injury during a training session and was ruled out of Sunday's home friendly against Mexico in Mexico.

Parreira's misery was complete Thursday when Evar, Careca's possible replacement, injured his foot in training, making him doubtful for the game.

Brazil's boss had already lost defenders Ricardo Gomes and Valter through injury, while Ricardo Rocha, still suffering the effects of an ankle problem, may have to be spared against Mexico.

Zetti claimed his innocence and blamed the test results on a cup of Bolivian tea he drank made from coca leaves, the raw material for cocaine.

The tea is widely and legally available in Bolivia but that simply added to the criticism which has been heaped on Parreira and his staff. Why didn't they realise the possible effects of the tea, the detractors asked.

Parreira was not long ago considered the saviour of Brazilian football after wins last year against France and Germany.

But he soon became the villain after a 0-0 World Cup draw with Ecuador followed by the defeat against Bolivia.

"Today, it has become fashionable to complain about the national team," said Parreira.

### Argentina's unbeaten run in danger

In Asuncion, Paraguay are confident they will end Argentina's 30-match unbeaten run Sunday.

Argentina have not lost under coach Alfonso Basile, but the World Cup qualifier takes them to Paraguay's Defensores Del Chaco Stadium, one of South America's most difficult venues for away teams.

The ground is small and claustrophobic and the Asuncion crowd intimidating.

"We are going to knock over unbeaten Argentina," predicted Paraguay striker Gabriel Gonzalez.

"We know that Argentina are famous but we have guts and determination in abundance," added defender Celso Ayala.

Veteran striker Roberto Cabanas, who played in 1986 when Paraguay last reached the World Cup finals, added: "They are rivals we respect greatly

but we are not at all afraid of them."

Paraguay's Brazilian coach Valdir Espinosa said his main worry was Argentina striker Gabriel Batistuta. "We will look after Batistuta well, we will give him special marking," he said.

Argentina won their opening South American Group A game 1-0 in Peru, when they were once again heavily indebted to goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea who made several fine saves. Batistuta scored.

Jose Basualdo is expected to step in for suspended midfielder Gustavo Zapata, sent off against Peru, while striker Alberto Acosta has a cold. Claudio Garcia is his likely replacement.

In Sunday's other Group A match, Peru take on Colombia in Lima with key defenders Juan Reynoso, the team captain, and Jorge Soto both suspended after being sent off against Argentina.

Colombia coach Francisco Maturana said he intended to field the same team which drew 0-0 at home to Paraguay.

### Uruguay face Bolivia and altitude

In La Paz, crisis-hit Uruguay face the dreaded trip to La Paz, to play Bolivia at an altitude of 3,700 metres in a World Cup qualifier Sunday.

Like his Brazilian counterpart Parreira, Uruguay coach Luis Cubilla has found himself under fire after two poor results in South American Zone Group B.

Unlike Parreira, who has somehow kept his good humor, Cubilla is refusing to talk to his country's press in protest at the criticism, team news is being given by the president of the Uruguayan Soccer Federation, Hugo Batalla.

Uruguayans were initially optimistic that the inclusion of top players Robero Sosa, Daniel Fonseca and Enzo Francescoli, back in the national team after ending a long-standing row with Cubilla, would give them the firepower they previously lacked.

Instead, Uruguay struggled to beat Venezuela 1-0 and were then held 0-0 at home by Ecuador in their first two qualifying games as their world class forwards struggled to develop an understanding with the rest of the team.

La Paz, with its thin air, is a venue bated by visiting teams and Uruguay lost there in the 1990 World Cup qualifiers before finally qualifying ahead of Bolivia on goal difference. Uruguay were due to arrive on Friday, giving them just two days to adapt.

Key defender Santiago Ostolaza is suspended, having received two yellow cards.

Bolivia, who ended Brazil's proud unbeaten record in World Cup qualifying matches two weeks ago, are out to show that they do not just depend on altitude to win games.

They will be without defender Miguel Rimbala, suspended by FIFA after dope tests following the Brazil game found traces of cocaine. Rimbala has said he did nothing more than drink some Bolivian tea, made from coca leaves, before the match.

## Zambia rise from ashes

LUSAKA (AFP) — It has to be one of soccer's most amazing come-backs. Since Zambia lost the plane crash off the coast of Gabon April 28, the new side is poised to take Zambia to the World Cup for the first time.

They have already qualified for the African Cup finals and victory over Senegal in the Ivory Coast Saturday would put them one step nearer the United States.

They beat Morocco 2-1 in Lusaka last month. Victory over Senegal in a match being played in the Ivory Coast would bring them level on points with Morocco, who have beaten the West Africans home and away.

However, much as everyone insists on calling the present Zambian national team "new" there is actually very little about it that is new.

Most of the team had already played international football. Eight players from Nkana and

Power Dynamos have had plenty of experience at club level.

Nkana have represented Zambia in the continental club championships cup eight times in the last 11 years and have reached the semi-finals four times and were losing finalists in 1990.

Power Dynamos have seven years of continental campaigns behind them since 1984 and won the Cup Winners Cup in 1991 under the tutelage of the present national team manager Freddie Mwila.

The rest of the team is composed of players who have already had a stint or two with the national team around a framework of European-based professionals.

Kalusha Bwalya of Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven has proved an inspiring skipper, Johnson Bwalya of Swiss side FC Bülle and Gibby Nbasila of German second division club IFC Union are other players who missed that ill-fated flight because

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## Japanese political crisis ends; Hosokawa elected PM

Combined agency dispatches

TOKYO — Morihiro Hosokawa, the descendant of a feudal warlord, was elected Japan's new prime minister Friday, bringing to power a coalition government that has vowed to clean up rampant political corruption.

The vote followed a day of delays and squabbling between the coalition that backs Mr. Hosokawa and the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), top-pied from power after nearly four decades.

Of the 503 votes cast in the 511-seat chamber, 262 were for Mr. Hosokawa and 224 for Yohei Kono, head of the LDP. The remaining 17 went to other candidates.

When the tally was announced, the chamber burst into applause. Mr. Hosokawa, smiling slightly, stood and bowed.

Mr. Hosokawa's formal selection as prime minister caps a stunning 15-month rise to head of government from virtual obscurity as founder of a small opposition group, the Japan New Party.

The 55-year-old aristocrat replaces Kiichi Miyazawa, who lost a vote of no-confidence in June and was forced to call the July 18 election that deprived his party of a majority in the lower house. Mr. Miyazawa's cabinet resigned Thursday to make way for the new government.

Mr. Hosokawa and his coalition have promised to revamp the electoral system and enact stricter political funding laws to discourage corruption. They have said they will continue the old government's basic foreign and economic policies, although they favour deregulation and a transfer of powers to local regions.

But Mr. Hosokawa quickly discovered the difficulties of leading a multiparty coalition that controls only a slim majority and faces a strong LDP opposition.

The Liberal Democrats, who remain the largest single party, had delayed the vote on prime minister to haggle over who would take the largely ceremonial post of speaker of the lower house.

In the end, the coalition's choice, Takako Doi, was approved. The former Socialist chairwoman becomes the first woman to preside over a Japanese house of parliament. The post is mainly honorary but highly visible.

The squabbles disappointed many Japanese hoping for an improvement over the parliamentary inaction of recent years, when lawmakers seemed to spend more time bickering over corruption scandals than debating legislation.

"This is just like a fistfight among kids, it's pathetic," said political commentator Kenzo Uchida. "Now that we've got a new parliament, this is a great chance for change that shouldn't be wasted."

Many commentators faulted the Liberal Democrats, saying they had put "face" ahead of the nation's political welfare. But the crisis also shook confidence in the coalition — a broad alliance of parties ranging from left to right on the political spectrum.

"Hosokawa has to manage a glass menagerie, which even a small jolt could smash," said the national newspaper Mainichi.

Like many other coalition lawmakers, Mr. Hosokawa is a former LDP member. He served 12 years in the less powerful upper house of parliament and as governor of Kumamoto prefecture from 1983 to 1991.

The LDP has 228 seats. The biggest party in the seven-party coalition, the Socialists, has 77 seats. The LDP lost its majority in the July 18 election.

The new prime minister was expected to meet over the weekend with other leaders to the seven-party coalition to discuss a new cabinet, which may be announced Monday.

But Mr. Hosokawa was expected to appoint Masayoshi Takemura, leader of the small Pioneer Party, as chief cabinet secretary late Friday.

Ms. Doi, former chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), ordered a second vote to choose the prime minister after the first vote was declared invalid.

after some deputies failed to cast a ballot.

The lower-house vote came almost five hours after parliament resumed sitting and followed a rare pre-emptive vote by the upper house, which had no relevance on the final outcome but also resulted in a majority for Mr. Hosokawa.

In the crucial lower-house vote, Mr. Kono received 224 votes while Japan Communist Party leader Tetsuzo Fuwa received 15. SDP chairman Sadao Yamashita, expected to take up a ministerial post in the new cabinet, received two votes even though he was not an official candidate.

Both houses of parliament were being convened Friday for the first time since Mr. Miyazawa dissolved the lower house in June.

The coalition decided last week to nominate Mr. Hosokawa. His failure to be elected Thursday night as expected marked the first line that Japan went to bed without a new prime minister since 1979 when turmoil in the LDP forced a 10-day delay in choosing a successor to Masayoshi Ohira.

The lower house resumed sitting after an agreement between the LDP and the coalition to resolve differences over the selection of the new lower house speaker and various procedural matters.

The LDP had earlier rejected the choice of Ms. Doi, arguing that the post traditionally goes to the party with the most seats in the July 18 election.

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His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher address a press conference Thursday (photo by Aynsley Floyd)

## U.S. to look into Jordan's complaints

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Christopher did not rule out confederation between Jordan and the West Bank as a long-term solution, but it was premature to discuss the issue at this point and the parties should concentrate on talks for the interim period.

Jordan has repeatedly said that confederation with a Palestinian entity would not be possible before the Palestinians exercise their complete rights in the occupied territories.

The concept has been in the air for some time and it was raised with the Palestinians not in a definitive way," Mr. Christopher said.

"But for the time being, we should concentrate on trying to find the best means for interim self-government authority, leaving longer-term solutions until the Palestinians and Israelis come to conclusions on interim steps."

Following the compromise, Ms. Doi was elected by 264 votes to 222, defeating LDP candidate Seisuke Okuno. The lower house then voted to extend the current session of parliament for 10 days, instead of 30 demanded by the LDP.

Mr. Hosokawa and the new cabinet are likely to be sworn in after Emperor Akihito's return Monday from the funeral of Belgium's King Baudouin.

## Tyson rape conviction upheld

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. McCarthy defended the ethics of prosecutors, noting that they had preserved Mr. Salem's tapes, which they did not learn of until after the undercover investigation was completed.

But the leaks apparently continued as New York Newsday newspaper, citing sources familiar with the transcripts, reported Friday that Mr. Salem suggested to the alleged ringleader of the plot that they wear yarmulkes so that Jews would be blamed for the attacks.

The existence of the tapes were first reported this week by Newsday newspaper. The disclosure caused a sensation among defense attorneys, who said the tapes would prove that their clients were entrapped by Mr. Salem.

In his letter to Mr. Mukasey, Mr. McCarthy provided the first official acknowledgement of the tapes.

He said Mr. Salem would likely testify at the trial and that he expected the defendants to argue they "were really not otherwise disposed to plan bombings, murders, kidnapping, hostage taking and the myriad other terrorist activities they spoke about in this case."

Greg Garrison, who led the prosecution, had no immediate comment and appeals attorney Alan Dershowitz was not immediately available.

Mr. Tyson, now 27, was convicted in February 1992 of attacking Ms. Washington the previous July in his hotel room.

He was sentenced to six years in prison, followed by four years' probation. Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia J. Gifford ordered Mr. Tyson held during his appeal and he is serving his sentence at the Indiana youth centre.

Mr. Tyson must serve at least three years of his six-year term under an Indiana law that subjects one day for each day of good behaviour. Prison officials say Mr. Tyson lost 30 days of credit for threatening a guard.

Clarence Trigg, the superintendent at the prison, said Mr. Tyson found out about the decision early Friday in a telephone call from his attorney. Mr. Tyson was back on the job as a dormitory maintenance worker, Mr. Trigg said, adding, "It's a regular work day."

Mr. Tyson testified he had openly solicited sex with Ms. Washington, the Rhode Island contestant in the Miss Black America pageant, and other contestants during rehearsals. He said he had made his intentions clear to the women and Ms. Washington, then is, had willingly engaged in sex.

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King Hussein told reporters that Jordan continues to seek a just and durable Middle East peace that "will be accepted by future generations and will return to the Palestinians their legitimate rights on their land."

The King denied "reports" that Jordan was planning to cancel its 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank as a preliminary step towards a confederation.

Responding to a question on the law under which the parliamentary elections will be held in November, the King said no final decision has been reached yet and that the opportunity was still there to continue debate on the issue.

King Hussein Wednesday dissolved the 11th Parliament and the government set Nov. 8 as the date for new elections. Uncertainty still engulfs the law under which the elections will be conducted and the Ministry of Interior has reportedly presented the King with a draft legislation that could replace the current law.

The King said the dissolution of parliament was prelude to holding the elections as it is not "possible to enter this period without taking these measures."

"The objective is to consolidate the democratic process and respect that all Jordanians are equal in rights and responsibilities as stated by the constitution," the King said.

"We protect the Constitution, and our National Charter is the way to achieve our objectives for a better future," he said.

Mr. Christopher said he congratulates the King and Prime Minister Majali "on the steps that are taken at the present time towards greater effectiveness of democracy in Jordan."

"I wish him well in the period between now and elections on Nov. 8," he said.

## Christopher end trip on upbeat note

(Continued from page 1)

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Reports that the army had moved "into the south" in order to disarm the Hizbullah militia and force it out of the sensitive border region were misleading because the

Lebanese government does not intend to disarm Hizbullah or prevent its resistance activities directed against Israel's occupation zone. Ever since Israel unilaterally ceased fire, Prime Minister Hariri has stated repeatedly and firmly that his army would not "interfere with Hizbullah" and other resistance groups whose attacks on Israel's occupation zone he and his government consider "legitimate" as long as Israel continues to illegally occupy Lebanon territory in violation of Security Council Resolution 425, which calls upon the Jewish state to "withdraw forthwith from all Lebanon territory."

Positive proof that Mr. Hariri means what he says is the fact that the Lebanese resistance has made five attacks on Israel's occupation zone since the ceasefire was called by Israel last Saturday. Three of these attacks were the usual mortar and weapons fire but two, on Thursday, involved the firing of Katyushas into the zone, some from the Iqlim Al Totah region above the UNIFIL area of operations where the Lebanese army has deployed.

The present task of the Lebanese army is to compel Hizbullah and its allies to comply with the February 1992 "Sidon agreement" concluded by the pro-Iranian militia, the Syrians. According to this agreement, Hizbullah would be free to conduct resistance activity in Israel's occupation zone but not to launch raids or rockets at northern Israel. Hizbullah generally observed this agreement, violating the ban on firing Katyushas into northern Israel only after Israel retaliated for Hizbullah attacks on its troops within the occupation zone by bombarding Lebanon villages in the United Nations area of operations.

The latest round was precipitated not by Hizbullah rocket attacks on northern Israel but by the killing in the first two weeks of July of seven Israeli soldiers within the occupation zone by Hizbullah and its Palestinian allies. Hizbullah did not send its rockets into northern Israel until the Israeli began their bombardment of South Lebanon. Hizbullah Secretary-General Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said this week that his militiamen would once again respond with Katyushas on northern Israel if the Israeli bombarded the villages of South Lebanon in retaliation for Hizbullah attacks against Israeli forces within the occupation zone.

If the Lebanese army does not curb Hizbullah attacks into the occupation zone and Israel responds to such attacks by hitting South Lebanon (which Katyushas were fired into the occupation zone) and Hizbullah replies by launching Katyushas into Galilee, the situation in South Lebanon could instantaneously revert to where it was before Israel launched "operation Accountability."

## Crown Prince stresses need to modernise judiciary

(Continued from page 1)

views on judicial issues with the aim of modernising and updating the judiciary to achieve its objectives represented in serving the society and the country.

Prince Hassan and the judges also discussed issues related to activities and updating the role of inspection services. Several judges proposed setting up a judicial inspection committee and creating a nucleus for judicial planning.

They also discussed with the Crown Prince the need to prepare a new strategy for preparing and training judges, saying this strategy should account for the needs of the Jordanian society and its relations with other states.

Also under discussion was the significance of benefiting from judicial periodicals and publications and exploiting other countries' experience in the judiciary, with the judges highlighting the need to develop the judicial library to serve the judicial development process.

Mr. Wazani also delivered an address at the ceremony and reviewed the development and objectives of the institute since it was established in 1989.

He said the idea to establish the institute was proposed by the Crown Prince, who had the conviction that it was a necessity for the judiciary.

Prince Hassan, he said, had supplied the institute with the bylaws and systems of judicial institutes in several Arab and foreign countries and was always following up the institute until it came into existence in 1989.</